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REPORT OF A NATIONAL SURVEY ON ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRECTIONS IN CANADA

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To the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada

(This report was prepared by Robert Hann and Associates Limited. The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Solicitor General of Canada)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A national telephone survey of 1509 adults was conducted from October 28 to November 5, 1998 to measure Canadians' perceptions and opinions concerning selected aspects of organized crime and corrections. This survey differed from some other public opinion research in several respects: the questions were designed to elicit the factual basis for respondents' opinions on certain aspects; more complex questions were asked and more complex factual situations posed than is common in other such surveys; and respondents were asked to choose between certain options in cases where previous research suggests that posing a range of options to endorse will cause respondents to endorse them all, even if they do not fully understand each option. Previous research suggests that people's perceptions of criminal justice issues are often inaccurate, and that these misconceptions can affect their opinions on related matters.

Corrections

Results of the corrections component of the survey produced the following major findings, which build upon and support the findings of other "enhanced" public opinion research:

- "rehabilitation" is somewhat preferred over "punishment" (by a margin of 58% to 42%) when respondents are asked to identify what they consider to be the "primary purpose" of corrections;
- there is very strong support for sentencing options which require the offender in non-violent crimes to make restitution to the victim or perform unpaid community service;
- most Canadians significantly under-estimate the high rate of imprisonment in Canada, compared to other Western industrialized nations;
- there is strong support for parole in Canada, by a margin of three to one. When asked to state a preference, Canadians prefer a sentencing system which allows for a discretionary system whereby some offenders are conditionally released to the community under supervision, rather than "flat-time sentencing" – a system which keeps inmates in prison to the end of their sentence and releases them to the community without supervision;
- people who feel that the primary purpose of corrections should be punishment still prefer a system which includes parole to a system of "flat-time sentencing", by a margin of two to one;
- respondents' support is even stronger (84%) for "effective corrections", the federal policy of making decisions about time served in penitentiary on the basis of risk;

- support for the parole of a hypothetical break-and-enter offender increases markedly when respondents are given more information about the offender and about how parole works;
- as suggested in previous research. Canadians tend to rate the parole system as more lenient than it actually is – they over-estimate the proportion of federal offenders who receive parole, by a significant margin;
- Canadians also over-estimate, by a considerable margin, the proportion of federal offenders released on parole who commit a new offence while still under sentence in the community;
- there is no statistically significant connection between respondents' estimates of the full parole rate and the recidivism rate among full parolees, on the one hand, and their primary orientation (punishment or rehabilitation), on the other. Thus, views of the aim which should primarily drive correctional policy may not be a function of, or even related to, perceptions of the relative “leniency” or “toughness” of the system.

Aboriginal Corrections Issues

Respondents were also asked about two aspects of corrections for Aboriginal (Native Canadian) offenders. First, a question was posed as to whether Aboriginal communities should have “more say over” the treatment of Aboriginal offenders. Respondents were fairly evenly divided between support for (54%) and opposition to (46%) this notion.

The survey also sought to test respondents' awareness of the “over-representation” of Aboriginal people in Canadian prisons – did they know that about 15% of offenders in Canada's jails are Aboriginal, as compared to about 4% of the general population? Most respondents actually over-estimated both figures – most think far more of the general population are Native Canadians than is actually the case, and they also over-estimate the Native numbers in prisons, though less so.

Organized Crime

The following are the major findings from the organized crime component of the survey:

- respondents are more likely to name the federal government (83%) as having responsibility for fighting organized crime, with provincial (70%) and municipal (49%) governments also named by a significant number;
- when they think of organized crime, most respondents are apt to think of drug offences; however, running an illegal gambling operation, money-laundering and cigarette or liquor smuggling are also identified as likely examples of organized crime by most respondents. Crimes which are seen as white-collar or corporate crimes are the least likely to be seen as examples of organized crime;

- among the possible examples of organized crime, drug offences are seen as the most serious, and stock market cheating and cigarette and liquor smuggling as the least serious;
- Quebecers seem to have more concerns regarding organized crime than do other Canadians;
- a third of the respondents said they had been approached to buy illegal cigarettes, liquor or drugs; among those who had, half of them, and two-thirds of those under age 30, had purchased these products or knew someone who had;
- those who had bought such illegal products were less likely to think of these as serious crimes or crimes which involved organized crime;
- some three-quarters of the respondents believed organized crime has been increasing over the past few years;
- respondents see youth as the group most harmed by organized crime, possibly because of their identification of organized crime with drug offences; a majority also see members of ethnic minorities as a particular target of organized crime;
- virtually all respondents want government to spend more money to “fight organized crime”; in a forced-choice situation, respondents picked organized crime as a spending priority over all other proposed options except health care;
- there is strong support for mandatory reporting by banks of suspicious financial transactions, and mandatory reporting of large cash flows across Canadian borders.

More Information

When asked if they would know where to go to express their views about the possible parole of an offender who had victimized them, the great majority (78%) of respondents said they would not.

Respondents were then asked where they would go if they wanted more information about organized crime, corrections or other justice issues. Several options were suggested. Two-thirds said they would use printed materials sent to their home or 1-800 telephone lines. Half said they would turn to community groups, and slightly less than half said they would use the Internet.

Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. The Importance of Enhanced Public Opinion Research	1
1.2. Previous Research	2
Corrections	2
Public Knowledge of Corrections	2
Public Attitudes towards Correctional Issues	3
Organized Crime	4
1.3. Structure of the Report	5
CHAPTER 2. METHODOLOGY	6
2.1. Purpose of Survey	6
2.2. Sampling Strategy	7
2.3. Sampling Frame	7
2.4. Questionnaire Development	7
2.5. Survey Specifications	7
2.6. Margins of Error	7
CHAPTER 3. CORRECTIONS IN CANADA	8
3.1. Primary Purpose of Corrections	8
Rehabilitation somewhat preferred over punishment	8
People support restitution and community service	9
3.2. Knowledge of the Use of Imprisonment	9
Most Canadians unaware of high rate of imprisonment in Canada	9
3.3. Reactions to Parole	10
Canadians support parole over flat-time sentencing by a large margin	10
When given an adequate amount of information, more people support parole	11
3.4. Reactions to a Risk-based Discretionary Release System	12
The Public support a risk-based discretionary release model	12
3.5. Knowledge of Parole Rates and Recidivism Rates	13
3.6. Target Messages and Target Audiences	14
3.7. Aboriginal Correctional Issues	15
Canadians divided on whether Aboriginal communities should have more say over treatment of Native Offenders	15
Disproportionate numbers of Aboriginal people in prison and out	16

CHAPTER 4. ORGANIZED CRIME	18
4.1. Responsibility for Fighting Organized Crime.....	18
People see a role for all levels of government, but particularly the federal government	18
Conceptions of Organized Crime.....	18
To the public, organized crime generally means drug-related crime.....	18
4.2. Public Ratings of the Seriousness of Various Organized Criminal Activities.....	20
Drug-related crimes are seen as the most serious, cigarette smuggling the least serious	20
4.3. Experiences with Illegal Products.....	21
A third of the sample have been approached to buy illegal liquor, cigarettes, or drugs	21
4.4. Perceptions of changes in the Incidence of Organized Crime	22
Most people perceive organized crime to be increasing in volume	22
4.5. Perceptions of Particular Groups Harmed	23
People see young people as the group in society most likely to be harmed by organized crime.....	23
4.6. Responding to Organized Crime.....	23
Almost all Canadians want government to spend more money to fight organized crime.....	24
4.7. Support for Specific Policy responses	25
People support tighter monitoring of cash transactions.....	25
Divided opinion on parole policies for organized crime figures	25
4.8. More Information.....	25
 CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSIONS	 27
 APPENDIX A: PROFILE OF SAMPLE	 29
 APPENDIX B: SURVEY INSTRUMENT	 34
 APPENDIX C: BIBLIOGRAPHY	 49

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. THE IMPORTANCE OF ENHANCED PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH

Public opinion surveys are important to governments not merely as a matter of a general obligation to understand their various constituencies and perceptions of “how are we doing”. More specifically, government needs to be well-informed about the public’s views and perceptions because these are essential to serving and safeguarding a range of public and government interests. This may be more true of questions related to crime and criminal justice than it is for many other areas of public policy. Below, we will explore the current knowledge on these subjects in more depth. However, it is important to note at the outset that:

- the public often harbours inaccurate stereotypes and misinformation about crime and government (as well as private sector) programs and activities in and related to criminal justice
- these inaccurate perceptions often cause a greater level of public fear for their own safety., or misplaced fear - e.g., fear of violence from strangers more than from acquaintances or family members. Public fears are not only a concern in themselves, but they also cause undesirable effects such as a diminished desire to occupy public spaces - especially at night - which in turn affects crime prevention efforts. etc
- inaccurate public perceptions also commonly lead to public opinions about government programs which are skewed, usually in a negative direction. More informed members of the public are apt to have opinions which are significantly different from those of the less informed
- government officials also are prone to misunderstanding public opinion, and, in the absence of concrete information, are apt to believe that public opinion is more rigid than it actually is. This in turn can skew government policies
- when the public has inaccurate perceptions about government programs, this can lead to lack of support for existing programs, public calls for misdirected new public policies, and lack of support for government proposals for change

- when the public has an inadequate understanding of crime and criminal justice, it can also cause them to behave in ways which are counterproductive. e.g., as seen in the “NIMBY (not in my backyard) syndrome”, or as seen in a willingness to buy goods and services which bring profit to organized crime
- when government fails to understand the basis for public perceptions and opinions - where do people derive their impressions, what assumptions are they making - it hampers government’s efforts to influence those misperceptions and properly target its communications and information strategies.

1.2. PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Corrections

A considerable body of literature exists with respect to Canadians’ attitudes towards criminal justice (see Roberts, 1992; 1994; Roberts and Stalans, 1997, for reviews). An important focus of this research has been knowledge of, and attitudes towards, correctional issues. We know more about Canadians’ attitudes towards corrections than any other issue in criminal justice. Regrettably, far more is known about public *attitudes*, than public *knowledge* in this area.

One reason for this is that many, indeed most public opinion surveys have assumed that it is sufficient to measure attitudes, without establishing whether those attitudes are founded upon an accurate perception of the issue at hand. A great deal of research in several countries has now accumulated to suggest that many criminal justice attitudes are based upon erroneous, media-derived perceptions. For this reason alone, it is critical to include questions relating to knowledge in any survey of public opinion. This was a key feature of the current poll.

Public Knowledge of Corrections

Clear, and well-documented gaps exist with respect to public knowledge of correctional issues. For example, many people have an inaccurate view of prison life, and fail to understand either the rigours of a custodial sentence, or the consequences for the prisoner. But it is with respect to conditional release that the gap between perception and reality is the greatest. This is important to note, because the polls examining attitudes to correctional topics show the most negative opinions relate to the parole system (see later sections of this literature review).

The previous research on public knowledge of parole can be summarized in the following points, each of which is based on a representative poll using a national sample of respondents:

- most people have trouble distinguishing parole release from other forms of release from prison prior to sentence expiry (e.g., statutory release)
- historically, most people have believed that the full parole grant rates had been increasing “over the past few years”, when reality has been otherwise

- most people over-estimate the percentage of inmates who obtain full parole, especially violent offenders
- most people under-estimate the proportion of sentence that is served in prison (they assume that all eligible inmates are granted full parole at the first parole eligibility date)
- most people over-estimate the percentage of parolees who commit a new crime while on parole
- most people assume that parole revocation involves fresh, serious offending
- most people over-estimate the costs of supervising an offender in the community (relative to incarceration).

These findings are critical: many negative evaluations of parole are founded upon a number of important misperceptions. However, many of the findings noted above derive from surveys conducted well over a decade ago. For example, the statistics relating to public perceptions of recidivism rates of parolees are drawn from a survey commissioned by the Ministry of the Solicitor General almost 20 years ago, in 1981 (Doob and Roberts, 1981). An important goal of the present poll was to update the existing findings by generating current data on public knowledge of correctional statistics.

Public Attitudes towards Correctional Issues

Of all components of the criminal justice system, corrections attracts the most negative ratings. However, it is important to note that the public are most critical of corrections because it includes parole; Canadians would appear to have far more confidence in correctional personnel responsible for running institutions. Surveys conducted in 1994 and 1998 showed that fewer than 5% of Canadians express "a lot" of confidence in the parole boards (Environics Canada, 1998). This compares to the public's relatively high confidence in police and victims groups.

However, it would be a mistake to conclude that most members of the Canadian public are critical of the *concept* of parole. Results from a number of opinion polls suggest that there is a significant bedrock of support for an early release program for prisoners.

The same 1998 Envionics survey asked respondents to react to a series of policy options with respect to parole. The options were "abolish parole", "make parole more strict", "leave parole as it is" or "expand parole". There was very little support for abolition: fewer than one respondent in ten supported this option, a level of support which has changed little over the previous five years. In fact, there was slightly more support for the "expand parole" option in this survey. (A further 10% felt that parole should be "left as is".) The most popular option was to make parole "more strict", which was supported by two-thirds of the sample, approximately the same percentage who held this view a decade earlier. Other, related research suggests that those respondents who hold this opinion have in mind offenders convicted of crimes of violence, particularly those with previous, related convictions.

Organized Crime

It is surprising, in light of its importance as a criminal justice priority, that few polls have addressed the issue of organized crime in Canada. Those that have explored the topic show that the public have a conception of what organized crime is all about, although their image does not necessarily correspond to reality. On the whole, Canadians do not, in fact, appear to have many clear ideas about the kinds of activities engaged in by organized crime. When Angus Reid asked Canadians to identify the organized crime issue that first came to their minds (Angus Reid, Inc., 1998), drug trafficking was the only response identified by more than 30% of respondents.¹ Almost three-quarters identified drug trafficking, while only one respondent in ten identified money laundering.

In terms of responses to organized crime, the literature is also sparse, but the few polls that have addressed the issue show substantial public support for a more vigorous response on the part of the criminal justice system. Half the respondents to the Angus Reid poll of 1998 endorsed the opinion that "Governments should do significantly more [to combat organized crime]". Fewer than one-quarter of the sample responded that government efforts to date were "about right". This result can be explained by the fact that almost all Canadians think that organized crime is a serious problem. The same poll found that at the national level, more than nine out of ten Canadians describe organized crime as a serious problem, with highest rates of concern in the province of Quebec, where 97% of respondents held this view. Similar results emerged from qualitative research using focus groups (Corporate Research Associates, Inc., 1998).

Another, perhaps more relevant, way of examining public concern about organized crime is to make comparisons between organized crime and other forms of criminal behaviour. The Environics survey conducted in 1998 contained a question which permits comparisons. When asked about criminal justice priorities, violent crime was identified as a high priority by the largest percentage (95%) of respondents. At the other end of the scale, white collar crime was identified as a high priority by the smallest percentage (47%). Organized crime was identified as a high priority by almost three-quarters of the sample, just behind youth crime, which has long been recognized as a high public priority. As with the question asking about seriousness, concern was greatest in Quebec, where 81% of respondents identified organized crime as a high priority. The timing of polls also has an impact on the findings. During 1997 and 1998, there were a number of highly publicized violent incidents involving outlaw bikers in Quebec. The media coverage and concern of the public who felt directly threatened by these criminal gangs may help to explain the perceptions of seriousness specific to the Quebec respondents.

The goals of the present survey, then, were to probe Canadians' understanding of the kinds of criminal behaviour included in the concept "organized crime", and to explore public attitudes to some specific policy alternatives with regard to combatting organized crime.

¹ Gang violence was cited by 28%, prostitution by 26%, smuggling by 15% and auto theft by 13%.

1.3. STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

In the next chapter, we will describe the methodology employed for the survey. This is followed by a discussion of respondents' knowledge of and attitudes towards corrections issues. In Chapter 4, the findings from the Organized Crime component of the survey are summarized. Overall conclusions are presented in Chapter 5.

CHAPTER 2. METHODOLOGY

Research on public opinion falls into one of three principal methodological categories: quantitative analyses of representative samples of the population; qualitative analyses employing small, unrepresentative samples (focus groups, for example) and a new hybrid approach called a Deliberative Poll which attempts to combine the first two categories. This project has employed a representative poll. There were several reasons for this. First, a number of focus groups studies have been conducted on these topics within the previous 18 months. Second, the intention was to draw inferences about the views of the Canadian population, and this is not possible with a focus group. Third, our intention was to relate the present investigation to previous surveys in the area of criminal justice, to see how attitudes have evolved (and if public knowledge has improved). Finally, there was a desire to set up a reference against which public opinion could be evaluated approximately one year from now, in the event that this poll is replicated.

The survey was conducted by telephone, rather than in person. Telephone surveys cost a lot less than in-person surveys, and research has demonstrated that they result in a comparable degree of accuracy.

2.1. PURPOSE OF SURVEY

The survey was designed, first and foremost, as a “policy instrument”: a means for government to test and further develop its approaches to certain priority issues. Secondary was the aim of producing findings which had a scholarly value or would further the fundamental understanding of how members of the public form their opinions, and what lies behind them. In the end, however, both aims were served to some degree.

The survey was a collaborative effort by criminological researchers, their clients in the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada, and Gallup Canada, which carried out the field work. The questionnaire was developed by the researchers and officials of the Ministry. It was pretested first by one of the researchers on a group of students, and subsequently by Gallup on a small sub-sample of 50 respondents. Minor changes were made to some of the questions as a result. The final questionnaire then went into the field for administration to a national sample of 1509 Canadian adults (18 years and over).

2.2. SAMPLING STRATEGY

The survey design called for a stratified random sample of Canadian adults which would reflect the overall Canadian population with respect to regional composition. Because of the small population in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, there were no respondents included from those areas.

2.3. SAMPLING FRAME

Appendix A contains a summary of the demographic characteristics of the sample used.

2.4. QUESTIONNAIRE DEVELOPMENT

The questionnaire was designed to go beyond the limitations of most public opinion polls by asking more complex questions, testing respondents' factual basis for certain opinions, posing different versions of some questions in order to see how responses varied, and giving respondents clear choices in situations where previous research suggests that giving a range of options will simply elicit agreement with all. Using these more advanced survey techniques proved to be more feasible in certain cases than in others. Appendix B contains the complete questionnaire.

2.5. SURVEY SPECIFICATIONS

One of the critical issues in any survey is respondent comprehension. If respondents are unsure about what is being asked, or the wording is unclear, responses will be distorted. A good indication of the extent of respondent confusion can be found in the percentage of respondents who choose "don't know". In the present survey, very small percentages of respondents chose this option, and for this reason we have excluded these responses in the breakdowns of data presented in this report. Where more than just one or two percent of the respondents said they did not know the answer or otherwise declined to answer the question, this is noted in the body of the report.

2.6. MARGINS OF ERROR

An important consideration in any representative survey is the question of margins of error. If the 60% of the sample choose a certain response option, how confident can we be that the population from which the sample was drawn would react in a similar way? The current survey was designed to yield a margin of error of 2.7% in 19 out of 20 samples. The margin of error can be described in the following way. Suppose that 33% of respondents favour a certain response. This means that the actual percentage of the population (from which the sample was drawn) that favour this same response lies somewhere between 30.3 and 35.7%, although 33% is more likely to be correct than a figure at the extremes of this range.

CHAPTER 3. CORRECTIONS IN CANADA

The corrections part of the survey differs from the organized crime part in several important respects. Perhaps most significantly, more is definitively known about corrections than about organized crime. Corrections is an activity carried out by government in conjunction with its recognized partners in the private sector. Canada is in the forefront of many of the developments and expertise worldwide in corrections, including research and treatment of offenders. Corrections is, in other words, a "known quantity", and it is possible to compare many of the perceptions of members of the public against the reality, thus enriching our understanding of why members of the public hold the opinions they do. The situation is considerably different for organized crime, where the very nature of the activity keeps much of the "reality" of it hidden from precise definition. Notions of the size and seriousness of the organized crime problem in Canada are debated even by the professionals working in this field.

3.1. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF CORRECTIONS

Rehabilitation somewhat preferred over punishment

Over the past 15 years a number of surveys have asked the Canadian public to identify the purposes or primary purpose of sentencing and/or parole. Usually respondents are given a list of the traditional goals, and asked to identify which is/are important. There are two problems with this approach. First, the public may support a given purpose (e.g., incapacitation) simply because it is contained in the list, even though they do not understand its nature or degree of effectiveness. Second, when presented with a list of this kind, the public tend to support *all* goals or objectives. In order to understand whether the public support one alternative over another, they need to be given a clear choice and asked to endorse one or the other. This was the approach used in the present survey.

Respondents were given a choice between two responses: "*to help offenders rehabilitate themselves and become law-abiding citizens*" or "*to punish offenders for their crimes*". There was strong support for both, and a significant 10% of respondents were unable to choose or declined to choose between the two options. However, rehabilitation emerged with more support from the public; it was chosen by 58% of respondents, compared to 42% for punishment. Fewer Westerners chose rehabilitation; 51% of those respondents living west of Ontario favoured punishment. Fully 71% of Quebecers favoured rehabilitation.

This finding is important for it demonstrates that punishment is not uppermost in a majority of people's minds when they think of the correctional system. As well, it should be borne in mind that the question did not specify any kind of offender. We know from previous research (e.g., Doob and Roberts, 1982; Brillion *et al.*, 1990) that the "top-of-the-head" reaction to questions such as these involves offenders convicted of crimes of violence. If the question had asked about non-violent offenders, it is likely that support for rehabilitation (rather than punishment) would have been even greater.

People support restitution and community service

Perhaps supporting the above findings about the purposes which Canadians would like a sentencing and corrections system to pursue were responses to a question about "restorative justice". This is a new term now given to several long-standing objectives of justice - to redress the harm done through restitution to the victim and other means, to make offenders give something back to the community, to give victims a more active role in the outcome of cases, to encourage offenders to see the harm that they have done and apologize to their victims, and to achieve other related aims.

Respondents were asked about this concept as follows: "*Restorative justice means that the justice system attempts to repair the harm done to the victim and the community as a result of the crime. Judges may follow restorative justice by sentencing the offender to pay some money to the victim, and to do community work without pay. Restorative justice is usually used for crimes that do not involve violence, such as theft and vandalism. What do you think of this approach to justice?*"

Ninety percent of respondents said they were in favour of restorative justice – either "strongly" (41%) or "somewhat" (49%)

3.2. KNOWLEDGE OF THE USE OF IMPRISONMENT

Most Canadians unaware of high rate of imprisonment in Canada

Relative to other western nations, Canada has a high rate of incarceration. This has been noted by many Commissions of Inquiry, including the Law of Reform Commission of Canada, the Canadian Sentencing Commission, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General, and most recently the National Crime Prevention Council of Canada. It has also been acknowledged by the federal government. Indeed, one of the goals of the statutory sentencing reforms of 1996 (Bill C-41) was to reduce the use of incarceration as a sanction. The most recent data show that Canada "has the dubious distinction of ranking second among western democracies for incarceration rates, behind the United States" (National Crime Prevention Council of Canada, 1996).

Canadians do not appear aware of the extent to which Canada imprisons offenders. Respondents were asked about the rate of imprisonment in this country "compared to other countries". The correct answer to this question is that the imprisonment rate is somewhat or much

higher in Canada, depending on the specific country of comparison. However, only 15% of the sample gave this response. Interestingly, slightly more (20%) of the respondents who had not progressed beyond elementary school were correct. Thirty percent were of the opinion that the rate of imprisonment is about the same in Canada as elsewhere. The most common response (from 38% of respondents) was that the incarceration rate was somewhat lower in this country, while fully 16% believed that the rate was *much* lower in Canada.

What is the explanation for this misperception? In all likelihood, most respondents are probably inferring (erroneously) that the imprisonment is low from their general attitude that the criminal justice system is too lenient towards convicted offenders. Whatever the explanation, the finding suggests an important target for public legal education.

3.3. REACTIONS TO PAROLE

There have been a number of recent calls for the abolition of parole from high-profile criminal justice professionals (e.g., Greenspan *et al.*, 1998; Paciocco, 1998). One of the justifications advanced is that the Canadian public would prefer a correctional system which simply administers the custodial sentence as imposed by the court, and does not provide a conditional release mechanism. Critics of parole cite, as support for their abolitionist agenda, a poll conducted this year (Environics, 1998), which found that fewer than 5% of respondents had a great deal of confidence in parole.

In light of these claims about the nature of public opinion, it is important to empirically verify the extent of public support for conditional release. This was accomplished in several ways in the survey, since no single question can be expected to provide the whole answer. In one question, respondents were given a clear policy choice between the current system and so-called "flat-time sentencing" – a system which would not allow for release from imprisonment prior to the end of sentence. In another question, support for parole was tested by describing an actual parole application. We shall deal with responses to both in turn.

Canadians support parole over flat-time sentencing by a large margin

Inferring support for parole abolition on the basis of low confidence ratings is at best an indirect way of evaluating public opinion, and at worst highly misleading. A superior way of evaluating public support for abolition is to give respondents a clear choice between two policy options.

Respondents were asked whether they preferred: "*A system which keeps inmates in prison right to the end of their sentence and then releases them back into the community without any supervision*" (no-parole option) or "*A system which releases some inmates into the community under supervision before their sentence ends. If they violate the conditions of release, they can be returned to prison*" (parole). Given this choice, the public favoured a discretionary release system by a ratio of 3:1 (75% vs. 25%)². Quebeckers and people under 30 are even more likely to prefer

² Even some of the respondents who favoured the "no parole" option changed their minds when informed of the risk-reduction benefits of a graduated release system. After giving their response to the first question, respondents were

discretionary release (81%) and people over 65 are less likely (64%). These findings are consistent with the results of other polls conducted in the 1980s, as noted in Chapter 1. Since those polls adopted a rather different wording -- yet generated a similar result -- we can have even more confidence in the finding emerging from this poll.

We looked at the correlation between the public's preferred view of the primary purpose of corrections -- punishment or rehabilitation -- and their preferences regarding the release system -- flat-time sentencing or the availability of parole. Not surprisingly, there was a very strong correlation: those who believe corrections should be primarily aimed at rehabilitating offenders prefer, by a margin of over four to one, a system which includes the possibility of discretionary release. However, even those who believe that the primary purpose of corrections should be punishment prefer a system which incorporates parole, by a margin of two to one. This result was statistically significant: there is a less than one in one thousand chance that this result would appear in our sample if the correlation did not exist in the general population (Pearson chi-square=43.230, df=1).

When given an adequate amount of information, more people support parole

As noted, public support for conditional release was also evaluated by using a case history approach. In addition to gauging public support for parole, we also tested an important hypothesis, namely that support for parole increases when people have an adequate amount of information. As noted earlier in Chapter 1, recent survey research in the United Kingdom has demonstrated significant support for alternative sanctions when the public were given an adequate amount of information about the issue. This logic was applied to the issue of parole. Half the respondents were simply told that John Smith is serving a 3-year sentence for breaking into people's homes. He has served 1 year in prison and is now applying for parole. Should he get parole?

The other half of the respondents were given the following, more complete picture of the parole application. (Respondents were randomly assigned to experimental condition.)

"Parole is a programme by which some inmates are allowed to spend part of their sentence in the community. If the Parole Board is convinced that the offender is not a risk to the community, parole is granted. This means that for the remainder of the sentence, the offender has to report to a parole officer and follow a number of rules imposed by the parole Board. If the offender breaks these rules, he can be returned to prison. Now that you know what parole is all about, here is an actual case. John Smith is serving a three-year sentence for breaking into people's homes. He has served one year in prison and is now applying for full parole to help him adjust to life once his sentence is completed. Smith will be supporting his family when he leaves prison. Should he be released from prison to serve the rest of his sentence in the community, reporting to a parole officer and following conditions laid down by the Parole Board?"

told that "Research has shown that it is safer to release inmates under supervision and to have them watched and helped to re-adjust to society, than just to release them without conditions at the end of the sentence. Knowing this, do you still favour a system which keeps inmates in prison until the end of their sentences and then releases them without supervision". After having learned this, they were asked if their opinion was still the same. Almost one-third (30%) changed their minds.

As predicted, the two versions of the same application produced very different responses. Three-quarters (74%) of the respondents who read the more comprehensive account of the parole application favoured granting the individual parole. By comparison, 42% of the respondents who heard the short-form parole application favoured granting parole to John Smith.³ Like support for the existence of a discretionary release system, support for the release of John Smith was significantly related to respondents' preference in the purposes of corrections. Both versions of the question produced more support for John Smith's parole among people who felt the primary purpose of corrections is rehabilitation than among those who felt it is punishment.

3.4. REACTIONS TO A RISK-BASED DISCRETIONARY RELEASE SYSTEM

The Public support a risk-based discretionary release model

Having been asked more general questions about the primary purpose of corrections and the existence of a discretionary release system, respondents were then asked a more specific question about the correctional system's differentiation policy with respect to releasing prisoners to serve part of their sentences in the community. The federal correctional system works from an overarching policy known as "effective corrections". This means "distinguishing between those offenders who need to be separated from society [and] those who could be better managed in the community" (Solicitor General, 1998). As embodied in the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act*, this policy builds in different approaches for federal offenders convicted of non-violent, non-drug offences who are in penitentiary for the first time, and offenders convicted of violent or drug offences. A range of operational distinctions and options is available for making the most appropriate time-served and reintegration decisions, based on risk and offence.

Respondents were provided with the following description of the risk-based discretionary release model: "*Offenders who are considered more of a risk to society usually spend more of their sentence in prison and less in the community on parole. Offenders who are less of a risk spend less time in prison and more time on parole. While on parole, all offenders must report to a parole officer and obey certain conditions. If they do not obey these conditions, they can be returned to prison. I would like to ask your opinion of this approach to dealing with offenders.*"

Respondents were asked how strongly they supported or opposed this model. Before being asked their opinion however, they were provided with an opportunity to hear the description again, to ensure that all respondents fully understood the policy. The results indicated far more support than opposition to the policy: Over one-third (35%) strongly supported the approach; a further 49%

³ It is perhaps worth noting that the applicant in this case had been convicted of a serious offence (break and enter) which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. If the scenario provided to respondents had described an inmate serving time for a less serious offence, the percentage of respondents supporting the granting of parole (in both experimental conditions) would likely have been higher. On the other hand, opposition to parole would likely have been considerably lower if the offence had been one involving overt violence.

"somewhat supported" it. Only 16% of the sample (but fully 33% of those with no education beyond elementary school) expressed some degree of opposition to the policy – 10% opposed it "somewhat" and 6% opposed it "strongly". Thus the majority of the public (84%) clearly align themselves with the correctional policy in this regard.

3.5. KNOWLEDGE OF PAROLE RATES AND RECIDIVISM RATES

As noted in the introduction to this report, previous survey research has demonstrated that Canadians over-estimate both the parole grant rate, and the parole recidivism rate. However, those surveys are almost twenty years old now. It is important to know whether Canadians in 1998 still cleave to misperceptions of these critical statistics.

Most Canadians see the parole system as more lenient than it really is

Defining the full parole grant rate is not straightforward, but the definition used by Solicitor General Canada is the percentage of all release decisions annually which are to grant parole. According to this definition, the parole grant rate was 42% in the federal release system in the most recent year for which data are available. The respondents were asked to estimate this statistic, and results indicated that a considerable number – over a fifth – indicated they could not answer.

Table 1 shows the remainder of the respondents' estimates of the full parole rate. If the parole rate is 42%, we might count a response correct if it is within 5 percentage points of 42%. Using this definition, 9% of respondents made a "correct" estimate of the parole rate; 26% guessed it to be lower, and 65% guessed it to be higher (including 41% who estimated it to be *considerably* higher – 60% or above).

Full Parole Rate	% of Respondents
0-25%	17
26-36%	9
37-47%	9
50-59%	24
60% or higher	41

How does this compare to previous polls? It would appear that this misperception has remained constant: a decade ago, the parole grant rate was approximately one-third (Hann and Harman, 1986, using a different definition of "parole rate") and over half of a representative sample of Canadians over-estimated this statistic (Roberts, 1988).

We hypothesized that there might be a correlation between one's preferences regarding the primary purpose of corrections (rehabilitation vs. punishment) and one's estimates of the federal full parole release rate – that is, a preference for "punishment" might be seen to reflect a desire for a stricter release system and thus be correlated with a high guess as to the parole rate. In fact, people

whose preference is for punishment do tend to guess that the parole rate is slightly higher than do those who prefer rehabilitation. However, this difference is not statistically significant. The same trend is seen with overall philosophy and estimates of the proportion of parolees who commit a new offence while out in the community under supervision.

Most Canadians over-estimate, by a considerable margin, the new crimes committed by parolees

Respondents were asked the following question about the performance of people on parole: "What percentage of all federal inmates released on parole do you think commit another offence in the community before their sentence has ended?" The correct answer to this question is 8% for the most recent period for which data are available. The Canadian public had a very different view. We might classify as "roughly correct" those respondents who provided an estimate of less than 20%. According to this classification, 86% of the sample over-estimated the rate of recidivism. Indeed, over half of the sample provided huge over-estimates of the problem: 56% of the sample estimated the new-offence recidivism rate of parolees to be between 50% and 100%. Nine percent of respondents declined to make an estimate.

How do these trends compare to 15 years ago? These data suggest that public fears concerning the recidivism of parolees has increased, although new-offence recidivism rates have stayed the same. The percentage of respondents over-estimating the parole recidivism rate has increased substantially.

3.6. TARGET MESSAGES AND TARGET AUDIENCES

In an effort to discover which rationales for community correctional options made the most sense to the public, the following question was posed:

"Some offenders are sent to prison. Others are sentenced to a community-based punishment when the judge feels it is safe to do so. For example, some offenders are sentenced to a period of probation and are ordered to work for the community and to pay back their victims. In your view, what are the best reasons for community-based punishments such as probation and fines?"

Respondents were given three possible rationales, and also invited to suggest their own; a total of up to three rationales were accepted from each respondent. The ones suggested were (in rotated order): "Community punishments cost less than prison, so the justice system saves money," "Community punishments allow the offender to maintain family ties," and "Community punishments allow the offender to keep a job and pay back the victim."

The results show that the rationale which most appealed to respondents (mentioned by 69%) was the possibility of the offender's continued employment and restitution to the victim. The next most frequently mentioned (by 49%) was the cost savings argument: community options cost less than prison. A third of the respondents mentioned the maintenance of family ties. Some respondents suggested rationales of their own, none of which individually accounted for more than

three percent of responses. However, many of these individual formulations fit into one of two categories: that, in one way or another, the community-based option would be more likely than jail to rehabilitate the offender, or that the community option was preferable because it avoided some negative aspect of jail, such as overcrowding or the criminal sophistication of other inmates.

We were asked to determine whether we could construct a profile of those members of the public who are relatively less or more open to existing correctional policy on the basis of one of the parole questions discussed earlier. It will be recalled that respondents were invited to choose between "flat-time sentencing" (which does not provide for parole) and a sentencing system which permits the release of some offenders from imprisonment prior to the end of sentence; those who chose "flat-time sentencing" were then given an additional piece of information (that release to supervision is safer than unsupervised release) and asked whether the new information caused them to change their minds. Could the respondents who answered in different ways be distinguished according to their demographic characteristics?

It will be recalled that 75% of respondents answered the original question by saying that they supported a system which includes parole, and that of the remainder, 30% changed their minds after receiving a new piece of information while 70% did not. A few characteristics were statistically significant in distinguishing among these three groups:

- age (those under 30 are more likely, and those over 65 less likely to favour parole),
- gender (women were more likely to favour parole),
- mother tongue (those whose mother tongue was French are more likely to favour parole than are those whose mother tongue was English; those whose mother tongue was neither are least likely of all to favour parole), and
- occupation (those who are unemployed or retired, and those doing skilled labour are least likely to favour parole).

3.7. ABORIGINAL CORRECTIONAL ISSUES

Canadians divided on whether Aboriginal communities should have more say over treatment of Native Offenders

A key issue in the area of Aboriginal justice is the extent to which Aboriginal communities should be involved in making decisions about the handling of Aboriginal offenders. Many correctional jurisdictions in Canada have already taken steps to increase this involvement. For example, the National Parole Board often enlists the participation of Native Elders at the parole hearings of Native offenders, asking them to assist in conducting the hearing in a way which will feel more natural to the offender and help interpret and contextualize what is being said. In cases where Aboriginal offenders wish to return to an identifiable reserve or urban community, parole case preparation officials may seek out the views of reserve or other community members as to the prospect of the offender's return into their midst. Some correctional systems contract with people on First Nations reserves, especially in remote areas, to bolster the parole supervision and treatment aspects of the community portion of the sentence. Other, more sweeping suggestions have been made which would more significantly increase the influence or control which Aboriginal people have over correctional decisions and treatment of Aboriginal offenders, including the creation of

Aboriginal Parole Boards or separate justice systems. The federal and most provincial positions on First Nations self-government agreements contemplate administrative arrangements whereby community-based corrections services could be delivered on reserves by Aboriginal agencies.

What do Canadians think about this issue? Results from this survey show opinion is fairly evenly divided. Just over half (54%) of the respondents agreed with the statement that "*Native communities should have more say over the treatment of Native Canadian offenders*". However, almost as many (46%) disagreed with the statement. Probably, most Canadians are at least somewhat unclear as to how such arrangements would work, and the split in opinion reflects this confusion. Canadians may also be torn between awareness of the need for innovative solutions to the considerable challenges faced by Aboriginal communities, on the one hand, and unease over special justice arrangements based on race or culture, on the other. In addition, regional variations are apparent; respondents living west of Ontario are less likely (46%) to agree with the statement.

Disproportionate numbers of Aboriginal people in prison and out

Correctional administrators in most parts of Canada are acutely aware that the numbers of Aboriginal prisoners in their jails are out of proportion to their numbers in the overall Canadian population. LaPrairie (1992), for example, documents that, other than in Quebec and the Maritimes, the proportion of Aboriginal prisoners in federal and provincial custody is significantly higher – four or five times higher in the Prairies – than the proportion of Aboriginal people in the general population. But are ordinary Canadians aware of it? In order to measure this, the survey first asked respondents to estimate the proportion of the overall Canadian population which is made up of "Native Canadians". Then respondents were asked about the proportion of Native Canadians in the prison population. Interestingly, most respondents overestimated both numbers.

Table 2. Official (Census and Correctional) Estimates, and Median Survey Respondents' Estimates, Of Percentages of Aboriginal People in the General Population and in Prison* and Penitentiary Populations**

Region	Actual % of Aboriginal People in the General Population	Median Estimate of % in the General Population	Actual % of Provincial Prisoners who are Aboriginal*	Actual % of Federal Inmates who are Aboriginal*	Median Respondent Estimate of Aboriginal Correctional Representation
Atlantic	2.3	20	3	6	15
Quebec	2.2	15	2	3	10
Ontario	2.6	15	8	5	15
Manitoba	10.8	20	49	39	50
Sask	9.9		68		
Alberta	6.1		34		
BC	5.3	15	18	18	20
Canada	3.9	20	NA	15	15

* Source: LaPrairie (1992).

** Source: Solicitor General (1997)

In the general Canadian population, depending on definitions used, just under 4% of people are Aboriginal.⁴ About a quarter of the survey respondents made a fairly accurate estimate of this figure (i.e., guessed from one to nine percent). The remainder, almost three-quarters, (73%) overestimated this number by at least five percentage points (i.e., guessed 10% or higher). The median guess (above and below which half the estimates fell) was 20%.⁵ Thirteen percent of all respondents declined to make an estimate of this figure.

Nine percent of respondents also declined to estimate the proportion of Native people in prisons, which varies greatly from one part of the country to another, but is likely close to 15% nationally. Here, respondents' median estimate was accurate, at 15%.

When these figures are broken down regionally (Table 2), more meaningful comparisons can be made, since there is wide regional variation in the proportions of Aboriginal people both in the general population and in prisons.⁶ In most regions, respondents' median estimates of the proportion of Aboriginal people in the general population were several times higher than the Census tally; in British Columbia and the Prairies, median estimates were only two to three times higher. Although again, median regional estimates of the Aboriginal numbers in prison were still uniformly higher than the official counts, here the figures tended to be somewhat closer to the actual proportions.

4 At the 1991 Census, just over a million Canadians, or 3.9% (adjusted for incomplete enumeration), said that they had at least one Aboriginal ancestor (Native American Indian, Metis or Inuit) and/or indicated they were a registered band member.

5 These overestimates may not be surprising in view of a recent U.S. poll finding that Americans estimate that the proportion of Black Americans in the population is 25%, whereas the correct figure is 11%.

6 The national median estimates may appear to be out of line with the regional median estimates because people tend to guess in round numbers, e.g., five percent, ten percent, etc. Thus, the difference in where the median case falls could mean a difference of five or more percentage points in the median value.

CHAPTER 4. ORGANIZED CRIME

4.1. RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIGHTING ORGANIZED CRIME

People see a role for all levels of government, but particularly the federal government

The first question asked respondents to identify the level of government with the responsibility for fighting organized crime. As expected, the vast majority of respondents (83%) identified the federal government. However, over two-thirds (70%) of the sample identified provincial governments, and slightly under half (49%) of the sample specified local governments.⁷ Respondents with less than a high school education and those who listed their occupation as "homemaker" were less likely to name the federal government as being responsible for fighting organized crime, while those who have attended university were more likely to name the federal government.

Thus organized crime is seen as a problem to which all levels of government must respond, although the federal government was seen as the most important component. Possibly this reflects a certain degree of awareness among members of the public of the "trans-national" reality of organized crime and the need for national and international cooperation to counteract it. As well, some members of the public may be aware that the federal government has the prime responsibility for the enforcement of drug statutes, and as the next question illustrates, drug-related crimes were the offences which members of the public most associate with organized crime.

Conceptions of Organized Crime

To the public, organized crime generally means drug-related crime

The next question explored public conceptions of the kinds of criminal activities which constitute "organized crime". Respondents were provided with 10 criminal activities in which organized criminals are actively engaged. For each option, people were asked whether, in their opinion, it was "definitely an example of an organized crime", "possibly an example of an organized crime" or "definitely not an example of an organized crime". This phrasing of the question reflected the fact that, depending on the manner of their planning and execution, certain

⁷ The percentages do not sum to 100% because multiple responses were allowed.

crimes might - or might not - be considered to be organized crime. Car theft could, for example, be spontaneously carried out, in a discrete criminal act, by a single individual. Alternatively, it could be carried out by a group, in a planned and systematic fashion, as part of a sustained criminal enterprise involving the theft of cars and their re-sale on the black market.

Table 3 summarizes the public responses to this question. Results make it clear that to members of the public, organized crime means first and foremost drug-related activities. Thus the activity which generated the greatest degree of consensus was "high-level drug trafficking", cited by 88% as definitely an example of organized crime. Almost as many respondents (86% - but only 74% of British Columbians) identified the importation of drugs as definitely an organized crime.

It was clear that people distinguished between importers and large-scale traffickers and "street sellers", for considerably fewer - 60% -- of the sample identified the selling of drugs on the street as being definitely an organized crime. Students (41%) and people in Alberta and British Columbia were even less likely to identify street selling as organized crime (49% in each province), while Quebeckers were more likely to (67%, and 72% of Montrealers). People over 65, those with a household income under \$20,000, and those with only public school education also rated the selling of drugs on the street as "definitely" organized crime more often (77% and 70%).

Table 3. Percentage of Respondents rating Offences as an Example of Organized Crime

Offence type	"Definitely OC"	"Possibly OC"	"Definitely Not OC"
High-level drug trafficking	88	11	1
Drug importing	86	12	1
Running an illegal gambling operation	64	31	5
Selling drugs on the street	60	33	7
Money laundering	58	35	6
Cigarette or liquor smuggling	51	41	8
Bringing illegal immigrants into Canada	42	44	14
Car theft	41	49	10
Cheating on the stock market	26	52	22
Illegally disposing of dangerous waste	25	46	30

Running illegal gambling establishments, money laundering, cigarette or liquor smuggling and assisting the illegal entry of immigrants into Canada were identified as being "definitely an example of organized crime" by smaller percentages of respondents (64%, 58%, 51% and 42% of the sample, respectively). Quebeckers were more likely to see cigarette and liquor smuggling as "definitely an example of organized crime" - 65% of them, as compared to 51% of Canadians as a whole. (This is particularly interesting since, as will be seen later, Quebeckers also report having been approached to buy illegal products, and having bought illegal cigarettes or liquor, than do other Canadians.)

It is interesting to note that the two offences which are, or might be seen as, closest to white-collar or corporate crime were the least likely to be considered by the public to be an example of organized crime. Illegally disposing of dangerous waste and cheating on the stock market were identified by a minority of respondents as definitely being an example of organized crime (25% and 26% of the sample respectively). In fact, almost one-third of the respondents stated that pollution

was definitely *not* an example of organized crime. Respondents with less than high school education were more likely (37%) to think cheating on the stock market was definitely an example of organized crime, and those with a household income below \$20,000 were more likely (36%) to rate pollution as definitely an organized crime.

As with street drug sales and cigarette or liquor smuggling, Quebeckers are more likely to see car theft as definitely an organized criminal activity – 58% of them, as opposed to 41% of respondents as a whole. (It would appear that Quebeckers believe there is more organized crime around them than do other Canadians generally.) Interestingly, although Vancouver is the “car theft capital” of Canada, British Columbians are less likely to see car theft as definitely an organized crime – 33% of those in B.C., and 36% of Vancouverites.

In part, these results may be a reflection of the stereotyped images of organized crime which appear in the popular culture - images which typically depict violence and “street” crime activity. Clearly then, public legal education is necessary in this area if the public are to understand that organized criminal activities are not restricted to the importation and distribution of illegal drugs. Again, however, it may reflect the fact that while illegal stock market manipulation and environmental crimes may be the illegal activities of organized criminals, other “independent” criminals are also involved in these offences. This is in contrast to criminal operations such as drug importation and distribution, which may *require* a criminal organization.

4.2. PUBLIC RATINGS OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF VARIOUS ORGANIZED CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

Drug-related crimes are seen as the most serious, cigarette smuggling the least serious

The next table summarizes responses to a question exploring public perceptions of crime seriousness. Respondents were asked to rate the seriousness of each of the preceding illegal activities, using a 10-point scale of crime seriousness, where “10” is the most serious rating.⁸ Overall, the respondents rated all of the crimes as fairly serious - perhaps as a result of having considered the possible organized crime implications of each of them in the previous question. In fact, for none of the crimes did the median rating fall below 6 on the 10-point scale (the “median” case in a sample is the “middle case” - the case below which half the ratings fall, and above which half the ratings fall).

As might be expected in light of responses to the preceding question, the drug-related activities were rated as being most serious. Nine out of ten respondents rated high-level drug trafficking and drug importing at least eight on a ten-point scale. Even street-level drug selling was rated at least eight out of ten by four-fifths of the sample. The illegal activity which received the lowest seriousness rating was smuggling of cigarettes and liquor, with cheating on the stock market

⁸ Specifically, respondents were given the following instructions: “Now, I would like you to tell me how serious you think each of the following crimes are. Please use a scale, where 10 means the most serious crime, and 1 means the least serious crime.”

and running an illegal gambling operation also rated as comparatively less serious. It is interesting to note that illegal disposal of dangerous waste is rated as a serious offence (at least eight out of ten by two-thirds of the group), even though it is less likely to be considered an organized criminal activity. The seriousness hierarchy is presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Percentage of respondents giving a Seriousness Rating of 8 or more out of 10 for Selected Offences (10 is highest)

High-level drug trafficking	91
Drug importing	90
Selling drugs on the street	79
Illegally disposing of dangerous waste	66
Money laundering	52
Car theft	46
Bringing illegal immigrants into Canada	45
Running an illegal gambling operation	45
Cheating on the stock market	39
Cigarette and liquor smuggling	37

The relatively low ranking given by respondents to illegal gambling operations is somewhat ironic, given that this activity is one of the oldest and most lucrative of all organized crime activities in North America. The public is either unaware of the illicit profit that is derived from this form of crime, or equally likely, may not associate “seriousness” with profit. Likewise, the public may not be aware that profits made as one criminal enterprise (such as a “less serious” one like gambling) may be used to expand other criminal operations or to gain further control *via* the corruption of public officials.

4.3. EXPERIENCES WITH ILLEGAL PRODUCTS

A third of the sample have been approached to buy illegal liquor, cigarettes, or drugs

Respondents were asked if anyone had ever tried to sell them, or someone they knew, illegal cigarettes, liquor or drugs. One-third (32%) said they or someone they knew had been approached about buying such products. People under 30 were more likely (46%) to report having been approached, and people 50 and over less likely (17%), as were homemakers (15%) and people with no high school education (12%).

Those respondents who said they or someone they knew had been approached to buy illegal products were then asked whether they or anyone they knew had ever actually *bought* illegal cigarettes or liquor. Almost half (53%) of those who answered the question said yes. Respondents in the highest income bracket (\$70,000 household income or higher) were less likely to say yes.

About half the sample (54%) said they or someone they knew had bought illegal drugs; 68% of people under 30 said they or someone they knew had bought illegal drugs. The greater the respondents’ educational level, the more likely they were to say they or someone they knew had bought illegal drugs.

Quebeckers were significantly more likely (43%) than people in other provinces (29%) to say that someone had tried to sell them illegal cigarettes, liquor or drugs. Interestingly, Quebec respondents were also significantly more likely to report buying or knowing someone who had bought illegal cigarettes or liquor (59% vs. 49% for other respondents), but they were about as likely to report buying or knowing someone who had bought illegal drugs (52% vs. 56%). This final difference is not statistically significant.

We examined the connection between buying or not buying illegal cigarettes or liquor, on the one hand, and on the other, perceptions of the seriousness of such crimes and the involvement of organized crime in such crimes and (as measured in the previous set of questions). Among those who said neither they nor anyone they knew had ever bought illegal cigarettes or liquor, there was no difference in median seriousness rankings for the offence. However, those who said they or someone they knew had bought illegal cigarettes or liquor were over one-and-a-half times more likely to rank the offence below than above the overall median, giving it a ranking between 1 and 6, inclusive. This difference is statistically significant: it would occur by chance in fewer than two such samples in a thousand (Pearson chi-square=9.869, df=1).

There were also differences in the perceptions of organized crime's involvement in illegal cigarette or liquor smuggling, depending on whether the respondent had bought such goods. Those who had, or knew someone who had, bought such products were less likely to say this offence was "definitely an example" of organized crime, as opposed to "possibly" or "definitely not", whereas those who had not bought such goods, nor known someone who had, were considerably more likely to consider it "definitely an example". This difference is statistically significant: it would occur by chance in fewer than two such samples in a thousand (Pearson chi-square=10.178, df=1).

Of course, it is difficult to know for sure the precise nature of the connections among these responses. It may simply be that people who buy illegal cigarettes or liquor retroactively rationalize their behaviour by stating that it is neither serious nor connected to organized crime. On the other hand, it may be that their experience of buying illegal cigarettes or liquor was or is relatively benign – possibly involving an acquaintance and none of the cultural stereotypes of "organized criminals" – and thus leads them to perceive it as less serious. These relationships emphasize the complicity of otherwise law-abiding citizens in organized crime, and serve as a warning that government policies and laws must be seen to be legitimate. Otherwise, organized criminals will attach themselves to these "vulnerable commodities" and profit from the public's ambivalence about them.

4.4. PERCEPTIONS OF CHANGES IN THE INCIDENCE OF ORGANIZED CRIME

Most people perceive organized crime to be increasing in volume

Respondents were asked about the amount of organized crime in recent years. As with other crimes, people perceive organized crime to be increasing. Almost half (44%) of the sample stated that there had been a large increase in organized crime, approximately one-third believed that there had been a small increase. Torontonians and Montrealers were less likely to feel there had been a

large increase (32% and 33%), while Vancouverites were more likely (59%) to feel there had been a large increase. People over 65 were more likely (55%) to believe there had been a large increase, as were homemakers (62%), while students were less likely (30%). Fifteen percent of the full sample thought that there had been no change, while 8% believed that there had been a small decrease in recent years.

Again, while there are no "hard" figures to contrast to these perceptions, we can speculate as to why the public may believe that organized crime has been on the rise. We know for example that in recent years there has been an increase in the diversity of organized crime groups as well as a greater diversification in the commodities involved. The media and the police have, within the past few years, begun to publicize organized crime by Russians, Nigerians, bikers as well as other groups, in addition to the ongoing activities of the more "traditional" organized crime groups. In addition to drugs, the public are now increasingly being told that organized criminals are involved in whatever enterprises can generate a significant profit.

4.5. PERCEPTIONS OF PARTICULAR GROUPS HARMED

People see young people as the group in society most likely to be harmed by organized crime

Respondents were told that some groups are harmed more than others by organized crime, and were asked to state whether they thought certain groups were particularly harmed. The sample were asked about the following: young people; elderly people; Native Canadians; women; members of ethnic groups. The group identified by the highest percentage of respondents was the young (84%), followed by ethnic groups (73%); women (59%); the elderly (55%); and Native Canadians (53%). It is likely that the emphasis in the public mind on drug-related crimes is responsible for the fact that the young were most likely to be identified as a particularly victimized group.

The relatively low identification of elderly Canadians as organized crime victims (particularly in Quebec) suggests that few members of the public are thinking about such crimes as organized telephone "scams", which often target pensioners. (Respondents over 65 were, however, more likely to think older people were particularly harmed.) The high percentage who identified members of ethnic minorities as being particularly harmed by organized crime, reveals an awareness of another aspect: that while ethnicity may provide a "wall of secrecy" which police find difficult to penetrate, it is the members of these ethnic communities who are themselves the ones most immediately targeted for violence, extortion, and intimidation by these criminals. In Toronto and Vancouver, which have large populations of ethno-cultural "minorities", sensitivity to their victimization by organized crime is higher (80% and 81%).

4.6. RESPONDING TO ORGANIZED CRIME

Public support for responses to organized crime was addressed by two questions. First, respondents were simply asked whether the government should spend more money to fight organized crime. Then, "head-to-head" comparisons were made between spending money on organized crime and other spending priorities.

Almost all Canadians want government to spend more money to fight organized crime

Over 90% of the sample endorsed the view that government (no level was specified) should spend more money on fighting organized crime. Only 6% disagreed with this proposition. Respondents from Alberta and Manitoba, and persons over 65, were somewhat more likely to strongly agree with the proposition than were others. The results from this question should be seen in conjunction with the results from the previous question on the level of government with responsibility for responding to organized crime. They suggest that Canadians would like to see increased spending from all levels of government.⁹

Organized crime takes precedence over foreign aid, pay equity for federal civil servants, reducing the national debt, new equipment for the military and improving conditions for Native Canadians, but not health care

Respondents were asked whether it was more important to spend money on fighting organized crime or on a number of specific alternate spending priorities. For each alternative, the sample was given a choice of spending money on one or the other. Fighting organized crime was seen as being more important than all but one of the alternatives given. By a substantial margin, spending more on fighting organized crime was considered more important than foreign aid (organized crime was considered more important by 85%) and purchasing new equipment for the military (by 80%, and 90% of Quebeckers, though only 65% of those over 65 and 68% of homemakers).

For the full sample, organized crime found about twice as much support as did improving living standards for Native Canadians (66%); in Toronto, however, a majority of 52% favoured improving living standards for Native Canadians over fighting organized crime. Quebeckers, on the other hand, were more likely than other Canadians (78%) to favour fighting organized crime over improving living conditions for Native Canadians.

About twice as many respondents favoured fighting organized crime over pay equity (64%). Interestingly, men were slightly more likely than women to choose pay equity, though a majority of both sexes still favoured fighting organized crime. However, respondents were about evenly split on reducing the national debt (organized crime was ranked higher by a bare 53% majority; in parts of British Columbia outside Vancouver, reducing the debt was favoured by 60%).

The only option which generated more support than organized crime as a spending priority was health care: 88% of respondents felt that spending money on health care was more important than spending money to fight organized crime.

⁹ Of course, support for fighting organized crime (relative to some other spending priority) will be highly dependent on the nature of the alternative. For this reason, a range of different alternatives was included.

4.7. SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC POLICY RESPONSES

People support tighter monitoring of cash transactions

Respondents were asked their opinions about some specific criminal justice policy responses to organized crime. Respondents were asked first about countermeasures against "money laundering". Results indicated widespread support (87%) for requiring banks to report "suspicious transactions" to the government, an activity which is currently engaged in on a voluntary basis by banks. Similarly, respondents were asked whether people should be required to report to customs officers the movement across Canada's borders of cash in the amount of \$10,000 or more. Again, a large majority (84%) supported this proposal. It should be noted that the high support ratings for these two measures might be expected from the simple wording of the questions, which reveal none of the complexities of how the measures would work, including the issues related to individual privacy.

Divided opinion on parole policies for organized crime figures

Should arrangements regarding eligibility for parole release from prison differ for organized criminals? Many members of the public believe that they should, but there was strong support for each of the three options given to respondents. Approximately one-quarter of respondents endorsed the view that organized criminals should never get parole, while a further 36% of the sample thought that organized criminals serving custodial terms should get parole later than other offenders. The remaining 40% felt that with respect to parole, organized criminals should be treated the same way as other prisoners.

Subsequent surveys might test the public's perceptions of the length of sentences imposed on organized criminals, rather than (or in addition to) opinions about parole. Little or nothing is known of the public's perceptions of the severity of sentences presently being given to members of organized crime. It would be useful to test opinion about both sentencing and parole against these perceptions.

4.8. MORE INFORMATION

Finally, respondents were asked two questions about getting or expressing information or opinion about issues of interest. First, respondents were asked, "*If you had been the victim of a crime, and the offender in your case was applying for parole, would you know where to go to express your views about whether he should be granted parole?*"

Only a fifth (22%) of respondents said they would. To some extent, this may reflect confusion about the levels of government responsible for conditional release of various kinds.

Next, respondents were asked where they would go if they wanted more information about organized crime, corrections or other justice issues. Several options were suggested, and respondents were asked to react to each of them.

- Two-thirds (65%) said they would read printed materials sent to their home . Most likely to use this method were Maritimers (75%) and students (76%). Those least likely to read printed materials were those over 65 years (54%) and those with no education beyond elementary school (51%).
- Almost two-thirds (62%) said they would use 1-800 lines. Approval of this method was fairly uniform across demographic groups; those most likely to use toll-free lines were Maritimers (85%) and people in sales and clerical positions (72%). Those less likely to use them were British Columbians (49%) and students (45%).
- Half (49%) said they would turn to community groups. Approval of this method was fairly uniform across demographic groups; those most likely to use it were those with no education beyond elementary school (67%). Those least likely to use it are respondents with a total household income about \$70,000 (37%), those in sales or clerical positions (37%), Quebeckers in general (43%) and Quebeckers outside Montreal in particular (37%).
- Somewhat less than half (44%) said they would use the Internet. Those who were more likely to say they would use the web were Vancouverites (54%), respondents under age 40 (59%), those who had some education beyond high school (55%), those in a household with children under 18 (54%), students (68%), and those in professional and executive occupations (60%). Those who were less likely to use the Internet were those with a household income below \$40,000 (33%), homemakers (31%), and those above age 50 (23%).

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSIONS

The present national survey confirms the findings of previous surveys concerning correctional issues and brings to light new information about public knowledge and opinion about organized crime.

Previous survey research in corrections has tended to suggest that Canadians are not as well-informed as they might be about certain correctional issues. On three significant correctional measures, the present survey confirms that Canadians still tend to believe that the system is more lenient than it is. Canada's use of imprisonment is higher than that of many comparable Western nations, but a significant majority of Canadians tend to believe that it is lower or about the same. Canadians also tend to believe that parole is more readily available to offenders than it really is – most estimate the parole rate considerably higher (at least as it applies in the federal correctional system) than the reality. Finally, most Canadians significantly over-estimate the rate at which offenders released to parole commit new crimes during the time they are serving their sentence under supervision in the community.

These findings suggest that initiatives designed to tighten or "toughen" the correctional system on the grounds that the public demands such change would, in fact, be based on a generalized misconception about the "toughness" of the current system.

The present survey also supports previous research which suggests that if more information is provided in survey questions, respondents are more likely to support options involving early release and rehabilitative alternatives, rather than increased time served in prison and punitive responses.

There is strong support for sentencing options for non-violent crimes which involve restitution and community service, rather than imprisonment. Canadians also support, by a margin of three to one, the continuation of a system of conditional release from prison over a system in which offenders would serve their entire sentence in prison and be released to the community without supervision or assistance. Results suggest that the federal correctional policy of making decisions about time served in penitentiary and conditional release based on the risk presented by the offender finds strong support among Canadians.

Those showing the greatest degree of openness to flexibility in the exercise of correctional authority are Quebeckers, those living in Eastern and Central Canada, younger persons, and to some extent, those with more education.

The survey suggested that there is also a good deal of misinformation and confusion in Canadians' minds about Aboriginal people and corrections. Results showed that Canadians are ambivalent about allowing Aboriginal communities to have more say over decisions made about the treatment of Aboriginal offenders. Canadians over-estimate the proportions of Aboriginal people in the country's jails – but they also significantly over-estimate the proportions of Aboriginal people in the overall population of Canada.

The survey also explored certain questions related to Canadians' perceptions of organized crime. The results tended to suggest that people's reactions to organized crime may be more conditioned by cultural and media stereotypes than by hard information – while also recognizing that even the "experts" in Canada and elsewhere admit that there is little definitive information available about many aspects of organized crime.

The results suggest that, more than anything else, Canadians tend to think of drug crimes when they think of organized crime. Other types of crime, and especially crimes which are associated more with "white collar" or "corporate" crime, are less likely to fit the stereotype of organized crime. It also appears that many Canadians are unaware of the "organized" criminal aspects of various offences, and a significant number of them have "participated" in organized crime by purchasing illegal products which are imported or sold through organized criminal networks. Those who have purchase illegal cigarettes or liquor tend to think of these offences as less serious than those who have not.

On the whole, however, Canadians tended to rate the offences in question as serious – possibly because they were addressed in the context of a discussion of "organized crime". Quebeckers tended to have more concerns about organized crime than other Canadians. Most felt that persons convicted of crimes involving organized criminal networks should be treated more severely than other prisoners. There was strong support for more funding to fight organized crime, as well as for new mandatory measures to try to detect and control the flow of proceeds from organized crime.

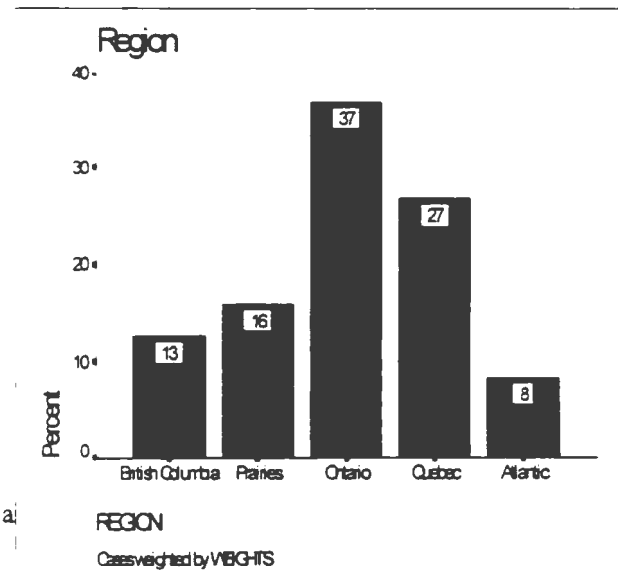
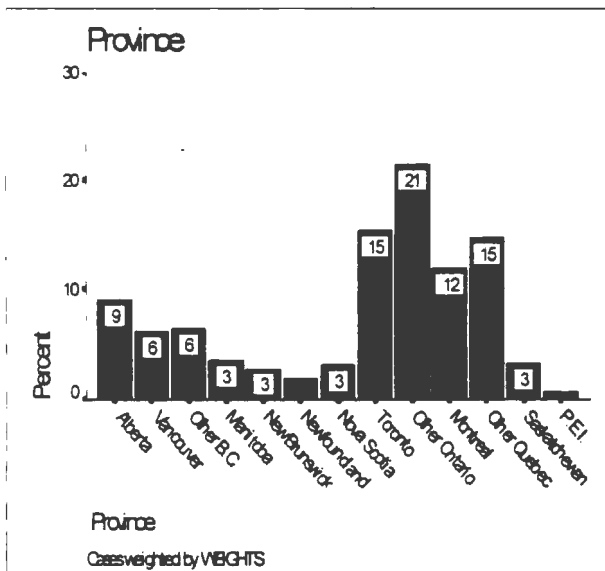
APPENDIX A: PROFILE OF SAMPLE

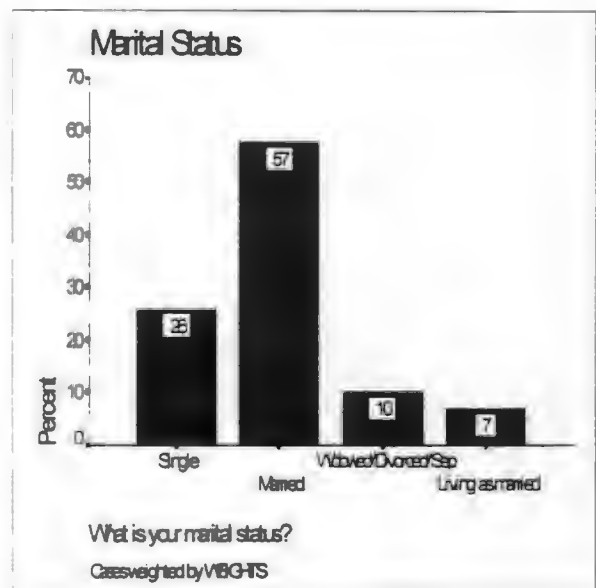
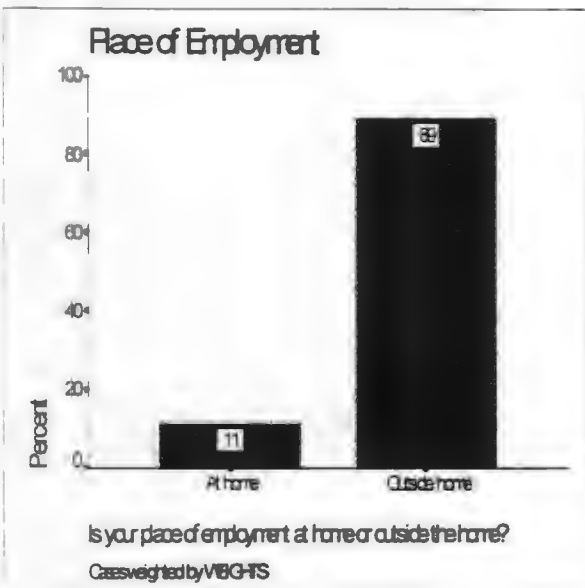
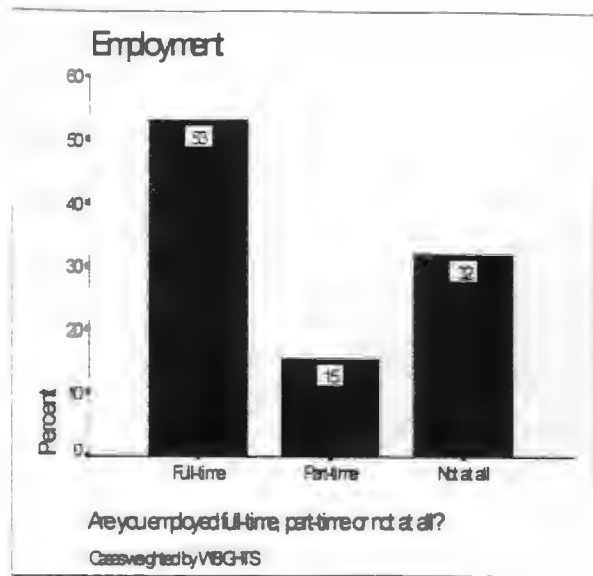
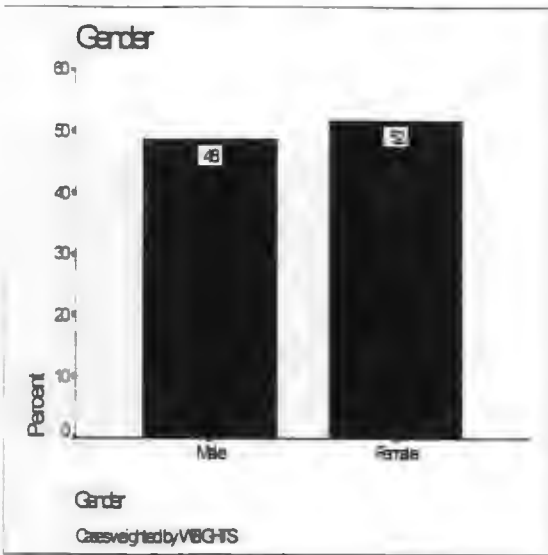
Overview of Valid and Missing Values for Each Demographic Variable

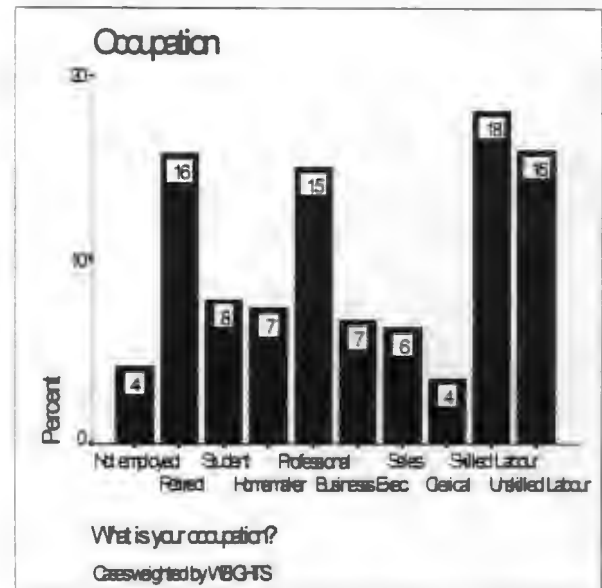
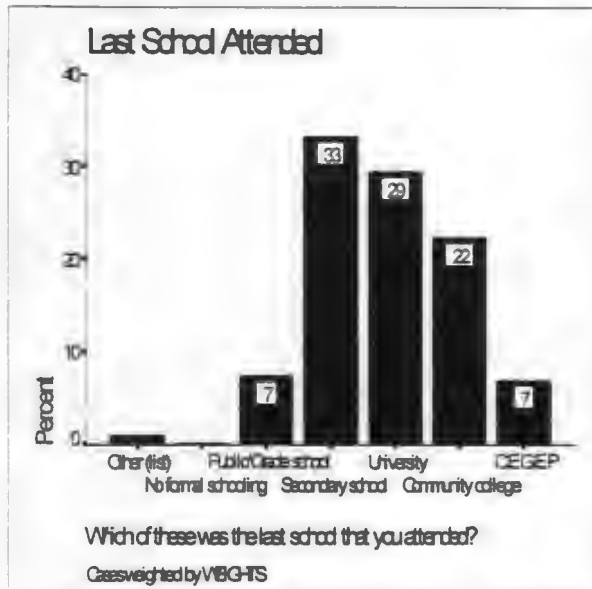
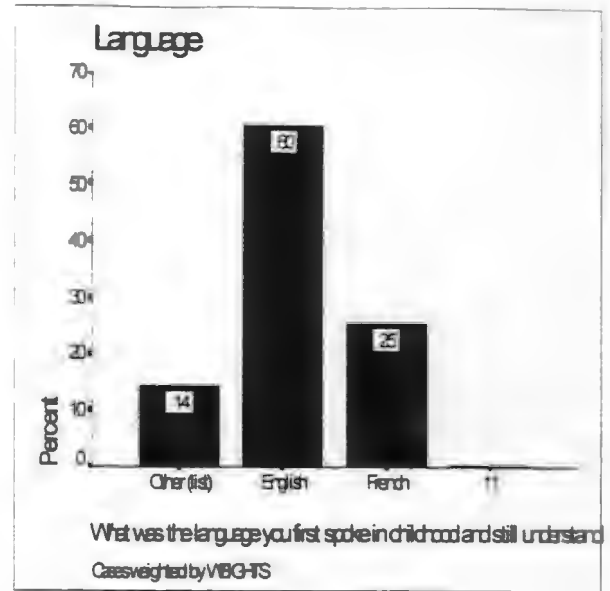
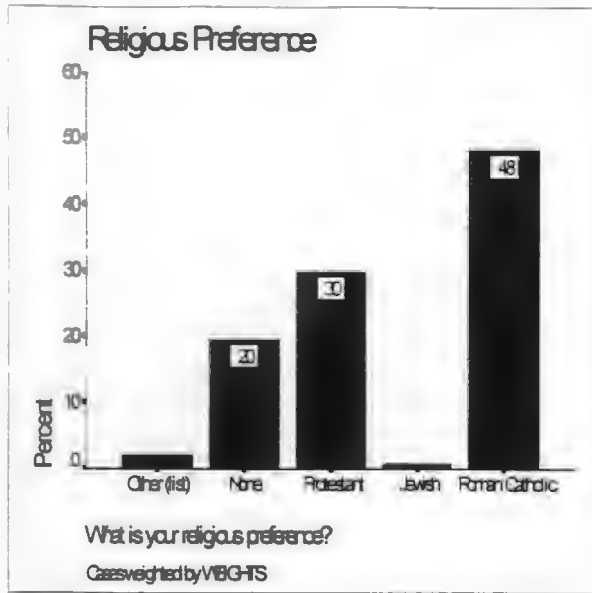
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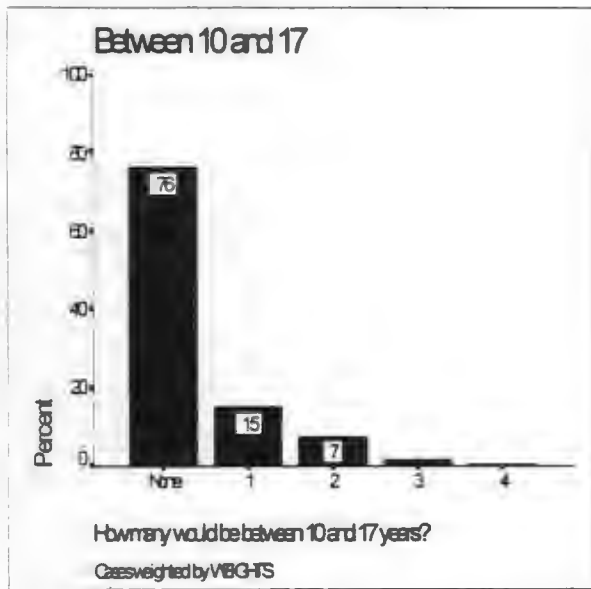
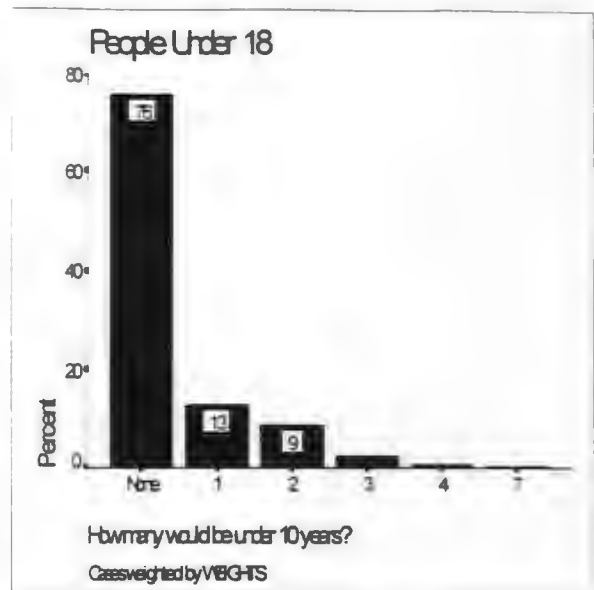
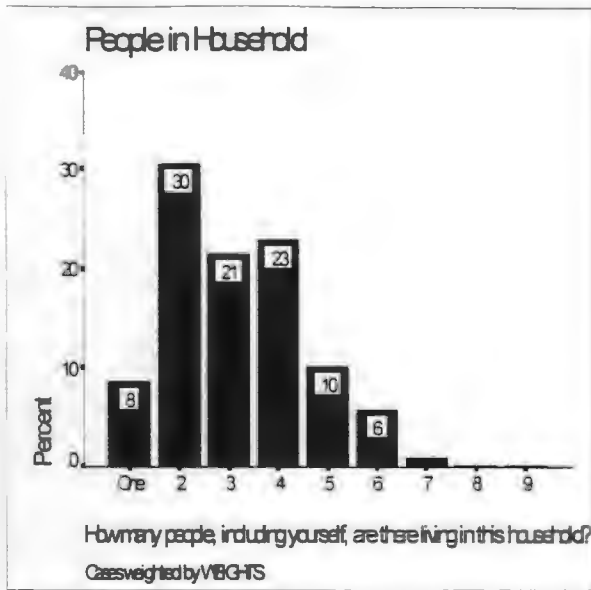
	N	
	Valid	Missing
Province	1509	0
REGION	1509	0
Gender	1509	0
Are you employed full-time, part-time or not at all?	1504	5
Is your place of employment at home or outside the home?	1023	486
What is your marital status?	1505	4
What was the language you first spoke in childhood and still understand?	1508	1
What is your religious preference?	1468	41
Which of these was the last school that you attended?	1504	5
What is your occupation?	1490	19
How many people, including yourself, are there living in this household?	1485	24
How many would be under 10 years?	1359	150
How many would be between 10 and 17 years?	1359	150
Are you yourself, a member of a labour union, or is your husband/wife a labour union member?	1505	4
Age	1458	51
Please tell me your total annual family income from all sources before tax deductions	1251	258
How many different RESIDENTIAL phone lines; that is non-business lines, do you have in your household?	1499	10

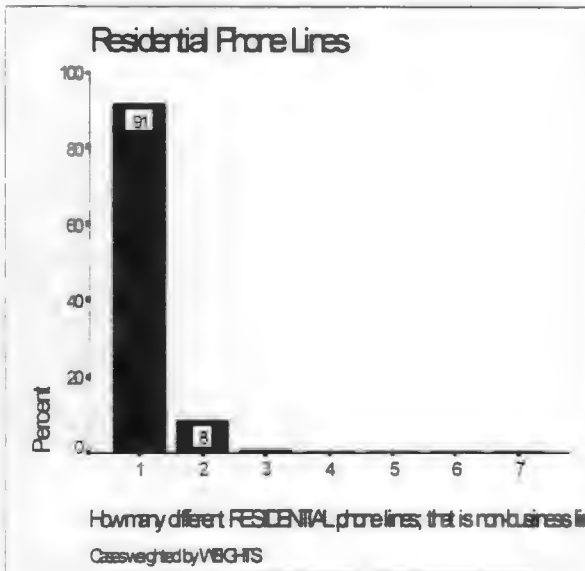
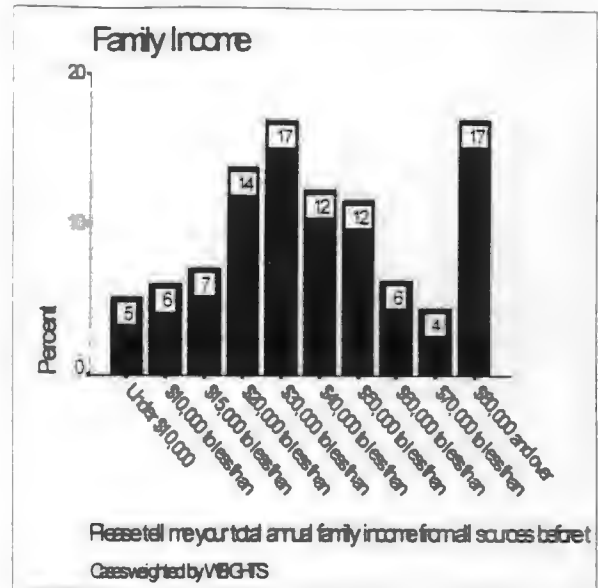
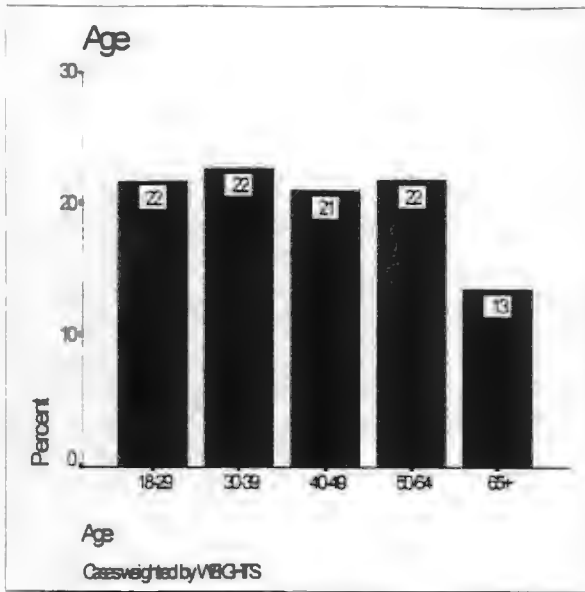
Distributions of Valid Values for Individual Demographic Variables











APPENDIX B: SURVEY INSTRUMENT

TORONTO, CAN

T

FIELD FINAL (REVISED) - OCTOBER 16, 1998

AC -

Project Registration # X APPROVED BY CLIENT

SOLGEN - Public Attitudes Study DATE
Corrections and Organized Crime Copyright, Gallup Canada, Inc.
Gallup Canada, Inc. INTERVIEWED BY
Josephine Mazzuca, Analyst/SOM
October, 1998 n=1500 (Rotate Part I & Part II)

I.D.#: 0 (1- 6)

**AREA CODE AND TELEPHONE NUMBER: () _____ (32 - 41)

**INTERVIEW TIME: ----- (42) (43)

Hello. My name is _____ with The Gallup Organization, the company that conducts the Gallup Poll. This evening we are conducting a poll across Canada on certain crimes and the justice system in Canada and we would like to ask your opinion.

S1. AREA CODE: (Code from call record sheet)

(450) (451) (452)

S2. PROVINCE: (Code from call record sheet)

- 01 Alberta
- 02 Vancouver
- 03 Other B.C.
- 04 Manitoba
- 05 New Brunswick
- 06 Newfoundland
- 07 Nova Scotia
- 08 Toronto
- 09 Other Ontario
- 10 Montreal
- 11 Other Quebec
- 12 Saskatchewan
- 13 P.E.I.

(453) (454)

S3. CMA CODE: (Code from call record sheet)

(455) (456) (457) (458)

S4. Including yourself, how many members of this household are age 18 or older?
(Open ended (and code actual number))

- 00 None - (Thank and Terminate)
- 01 One - (If other than respondent, ask to speak to that person, and Skip to S6)
- 02-
96 96+ - (Continue)
- 97 Not available - (Reset to "Intro", and Set time to call back)
- 98 (DK)
- 99 (Refused) (Thank and Terminate) (465) (466)

S5. Of those (response in S1) adults, I need to speak to the one who had the most recent birthday.

- 1 Respondent available - (Continue)
- 7 Respondent not available - (Reset to "Intro", and Set time to call back)
- 8 (Refused) - (Thank and Terminate) (467)

S6. (When respondent is on the line, say:) I need to confirm that you are 18 years of age or older. Is that correct?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 (DK)
- 4 (RF)
- (468)

S7. LANGUAGE: (Code language interview conducted in:)

- 1 English
- 2 French (449)

**GENDER: (Do not ask; code only)

- 1 Male
- 2 Female (44)

PART I: ORGANIZED CRIME

1. Which of the following levels of government is responsible for fighting organized crime (OC)? (Read and rotate 1-3) If you think more than one is responsible, please tell me.

- 1 Federal government (507)
- 2 Provincial governments (508)
- 3 Local governments (509)
- 4 (DK)
- 5 (Refused)

2. I am going to read you a list of crimes. Please tell me whether you think each crime is: definitely an example of an "organized crime", possibly an example of an organized crime, or definitely not an example of an organized crime. (Read and rotate A-J)

- 1 Definitely an example of an organized crime
 - 2 Possibly an example of an organized crime
 - 3 Definitely not an example of an organized crime
 - 4 (DK)
 - 5 (Refused)
- A. Is cigarette and liquor smuggling an example of OC? (510)
 - B. Is drug importing an example of OC? (511)
 - C. Is selling drugs on the street an example of OC? (512)
 - D. Is running an illegal gambling operation an example of OC?
(513)
 - E. Is cheating on the stock market an example of OC? (514)
 - F. Is putting illegal cash into legal bank accounts an example of OC? (515)
 - G. Is bringing illegal immigrants into Canada an example of OC?
(516)
 - H. Is illegally disposing of dangerous waste an example of OC?
(517)
 - I. Is car theft an example of OC? (518)
 - J. Is high level drug trafficking an example of OC? (630)

3. Now I would like you to tell me how serious you think each of the following crimes are. Please use a scale, where 10 means the most serious (MSC) crime, and 1 means the least serious crime (LSC). Using a scale like this, what score would you give to: (Read and rotate A-J)

A. Cigarette and liquor smuggling:

MSC										LSC	(DK)	(RF)		
10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	01	11	12	(519)	(520)

B. Drug importing:

MSC										LSC	(DK)	(RF)		
10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	01	11	12	(521)	(522)

C. Selling drugs on the street:

MSC										LSC	(DK)	(RF)		
10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	01	11	12	(523)	(524)

D. Running an illegal gambling operation:

MSC										LSC	(DK)	(RF)		
10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	01	11	12	(525)	(526)

E. Cheating on the stock market:

MSC										LSC	(DK)	(RF)		
10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	01	11	12	(527)	(528)

F. Putting illegal cash into legal bank accounts:

MSC										LSC	(DK)	(RF)		
10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	01	11	12	(529)	(530)

G. Bringing illegal immigrants into Canada:

MSC										LSC	(DK)	(RF)		
10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	01	11	12	(531)	(532)

H. Illegally disposing of dangerous waste:

MSC										LSC	(DK)	(RF)		
10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	01	11	12	(533)	(534)

I. Car theft:

MSC										LSC	(DK)	(RF)		
10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	01	11	12	(535)	(536)

J. High level drug trafficking:

MSC										LSC	(DK)	(RF)		
10	09	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	01	11	12	(631)	(632)

4. Has anyone ever tried to sell you or someone you know illegal cigarettes, liquor or drugs?

1	2	3	4	
Yes	No	(DK)	(RF)	(537)
(Continue)	(Skip to #7)			

5. (If "1-Yes" in #4, ask:) Have you or anyone you know ever bought illegal cigarettes or liquor?

1	2	3	4	
Yes	No	(DK)	(RF)	(538)

6. Have you or anyone you know ever bought illegal drugs?

1	2	3	4	
Yes	No	(DK)	(RF)	(539)

7. Over the past few years, has there been a large increase, a small increase, no change or a small decrease in the amount of organized crime in Canada?

1	a large increase in the amount of organized crime	
2	a small increase in the amount of organized crime	
3	no change in the amount of organized crime	
4	a small decrease in the amount of organized crime	
5	(DK)	
6	(Refused)	(540)

8. Some groups are harmed more than others by organized crime. In your opinion, which of the following groups are particularly harmed by organized crime? (Read and rotate A-E)

	Yes	No	(DK)	(RF)	
A. Are Young people particularly harmed by OC?	1	2	3	4	(541)
B. Are Elderly people particularly harmed by OC?	1	2	3	4	(542)
C. Are Native Canadians particularly harmed by OC?	1	2	3	4	(543)
D. Are Women particularly harmed by OC?	1	2	3	4	(544)
E. Are Members of ethnic groups particularly harmed by OC?	1	2	3	4	(545)

9. Do you (read 1-4) that the government should spend more money to fight organized crime?

1	Strongly agree
2	Somewhat Agree
3	Somewhat Disagree
4	Strongly disagree

5 (DK)
6 (Refused) (546)

10. Now I am going to ask you a series of questions about different ways for the government to spend its money. I will read you two choices in each series, and ask you which one is more important. Is it more important to spend money (read & rotate series A-F, also rotating within each series i.e. 01-02; 03-04; 05-06, 07-08, 09-10, and 11-12.)

(INTERVIEWER NOTE: Always read statement pair i.e. 01-02, 03-04, etc. Pause after each series)

01 on fighting OC, or
02 on foreign aid?

03 on fighting OC, or
04 on health care?

05 on fighting OC, or
06 on pay equity?

07 on fighting OC, or
08 on reducing the national debt?

09 on fighting OC, or
10 on buying new equipment for the military?

11 on fighting OC, or
12 on improving conditions for native Canadians?

13 (DK)
14 (Refused)

A. (Read and rotate 01-02): (547) (548)

B. (Read and rotate 03-04): (549) (550)

C. (Read and rotate 05-06): (551) (552)

D. (Read and rotate 07-08): (553) (554)

E. (Read and rotate 09-10): (555) (556)

F. (Read and rotate 11-12): (557) (558)

11. People involved in organized crime put illegal cash into banks and businesses. This hides the fact that the cash came from illegal activities. This is called "money laundering". To prevent this, the government wants banks to report any suspicious transactions to the government. Do you support this plan by the government?

1 Yes, banks should have to report any suspicious transactions to the government

2 No, banks should not have to report any transactions to the government

- 3 (DK)
- 4 (Refused)

(559)

12. People involved in organized crime also move illegal cash across Canada's borders. To prevent this, the government wants people to report the movement of \$10,000 or more to customs officers. Do you support this plan by the government?

1 Yes, people should have to report the movement of \$10,000 or more to customs officers

2 No, people should not have to report the movement of \$10,000 or more to customs officers

- 3 (DK)
- 4 (Refused)

(560)

13. I would like to ask you your opinion about the treatment of people in prison for organized crime activities. Which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion? (Read 1-3)

1 Inmates in prison for organized crimes should never get parole

2 Inmates in prison for organized crimes should get parole later than other offenders

3 Inmates in prison for organized crimes should get parole at the same time as other inmates.

- 4 (DK)
- 5 (Refused)

(561)

PART II: CORRECTIONS

(INTERVIEWER READ:) At this point I would like to turn to some issues in another area of justice.

14. I would like to ask your opinion about the use of imprisonment in this country. Some countries use imprisonment as a punishment more than other countries. Is the imprisonment rate: (read 1-5)?

- 1 much higher in Canada than other countries
- 2 somewhat higher in Canada
- 3 about the same in Canada
- 4 somewhat lower in Canada
- 5 much lower in Canada

- 6 (DK)
- 7 (Refused)

(562)

15. Some offenders are sent to prison. Others are sentenced to a community-based punishment when the judge feels it is safe to do so. For example, some offenders are sentenced to a period of probation and are ordered to work for the community and to pay back their victims. In your view, what are the best reasons for community-based punishments such as probation and fines? (Read and rotate 06-08) Any other reasons? (Open ended) (Accept upto three responses)

- 01 Other (list)
- 02 (DK)
- 03 (Refused)
- 04 None
- 05 HOLD

06 Community punishments cost less than prison, so the justice system
saves money
07 Community punishments allow the offender to maintain family ties
08 Community punishments allow the offender to keep a job and pay back
the victim

1st
Resp: (563) (564)

2nd
Resp: (565) (566)

3rd
Resp: (567) (568)

16. The correctional system has responsibility for offenders in prison and offenders serving sentences in the community. What is the primary purpose of corrections? (Read 1-2)

1 To help offenders rehabilitate themselves and become law-abiding
citizens

2 To punish offenders for their crimes

3 (DK)

4 (Refused)

(569)

17. Which of the two following prison systems do you prefer? (Read and rotate 1-2)

Option A

1 A system which keeps inmates in prison right to the end of their sentence and then releases them back into the community without any supervision

Option B

2 A system which releases some inmates into the community under supervision before their sentence ends. If they violate the conditions of release, they can be returned to prison.

3 (DK)

4 (Refused)

(570)

(If code "1" in #17, continue;
Otherwise, skip to #19)

18. Research has shown that it is safer to release inmates under supervision, and to have them watched and helped to re-adjust to society, than to just release them without conditions at the end of the sentence. Knowing this, do you still favour a system which keeps inmates in prison until the end of their sentences and then releases them without supervision?

1 Yes, still favour a system which keeps offenders in prison until the end of their sentences.

2 No, I favour a system which releases some offenders to spend part of their sentence under supervision in the community.

3 (DK)

4 (Refused)

(571)

19. Offenders who are considered more of a risk to society usually spend more of their sentence in prison and less in the community on parole. Offenders who are less of a risk spend less time in prison and more time on parole. While on parole, all offenders must report to a parole officer and obey certain conditions. If they do not obey these conditions, they can be returned to prison.

I would like to ask your opinion of this approach to dealing with offenders

(INTERVIEWER PROMPT): But first, is the policy clear to you, or would you like me to repeat my description? [If respondent requires second reading, provide description, if not:]

Do you (read 1-4)?

1 strongly support this approach to dealing with offenders

2 somewhat support this approach

3 somewhat oppose this approach

4 strongly oppose this approach

5 (DK)

6 (Refused)

(572)

(INTERVIEWER READ:) Now I am going to describe an inmate who has applied for parole. I would like your opinion of whether he should be granted release from prison on parole.

(PROGRAMMING NOTE:) Version randomly determined i.e. 50% of Version A and 50% of Version B)

20a. VERSION A: John Smith is serving a 3-year sentence for breaking into people's homes. He has served 1 year in prison and is now applying for parole. Should he get parole?

- 1 Yes, John should get parole
- 2 No, John should not get parole

- 3 (DK)
- 4 (Refused) (573)

20b. VERSION B: Parole is a programme by which some inmates are allowed to spend part of their sentence in the community. If the Parole Board is convinced that offender is not a risk to the community, parole is granted. This means that for the remainder of the sentence, the offender has to report to a parole officer and follow a number of rules imposed by the Parole Board. If the offender breaks these rules, he can be returned to prison. Now that you know what parole is all about, here is an actual case. John Smith is serving a three-year sentence for breaking into peoples' homes. He has served one year in prison and is now applying for full parole to help him adjust to life once his sentence is completed. Smith will be supporting his family when he leaves prison. Should he be released from prison to serve the rest of his sentence in the community, reporting to a parole officer and following conditions laid down by the Parole Board?

- 1 Yes, John should be released on parole to serve the rest of his sentence under supervision in the community.
- 2 No, John should not be released on parole to serve the rest of his sentence under supervision in the community.

- 3 (DK)
- 4 (Refused) (574)

21. In your opinion, what percentage of all federal inmates are released by the Parole Board on full parole? (Open ended and code percentage, rounding off to the nearest percentage)

- 999 (DK/Refused)

- (607) (608) (609)

22. What percentage of all federal inmates released on parole do you think commit another offence in the community before their sentence has ended? (Open ended and code percentage, rounding off to the nearest percentage)

- 999 (DK/Refused)

- (610) (611) (612)

23. Some people have suggested that Native Canadian communities should have more say over the treatment of Native Canadian offenders. Others disagree. Would you say you (read 1-4)?

- 1 Strongly agree

- 2 Somewhat agree
- 3 Somewhat disagree
- 4 Strongly disagree

5 (DK)

6 (Refused)

(619)

24. In your opinion, what percentage of all Canadians are Native Canadians? (Open ended and code percentage, rounding off to the nearest percentage)

999 (DK/Refused)

(613) (614) (615)

25. Now, with respect to the prison population: In your opinion, what percentage of all people in prison are Native Canadians? (Open ended and code percentage, rounding off to the nearest percentage)

999 (DK/Refused)

(616) (617) (618)

26. Restorative Justice means that the justice system attempts to repair the harm done to the victim and the community as a result of the crime. Judges may follow restorative justice by sentencing the offender to pay some money to the victim, and to do community work without pay. Restorative justice is usually used for crimes that do not involve violence, such as theft and vandalism. What do you think of this new approach to justice? Are you (read 1-4)?

- 1 strongly in favour of restorative justice
- 2 somewhat in favour of restorative justice
- 3 somewhat opposed to restorative justice
- 4 strongly opposed to restorative justice

5 (DK)

6 (Refused)

(620)

27. If you had been the victim of a crime, and the offender in your case was applying for parole, would you know where to go to express your views about whether he should be granted parole?

1
Yes

2
No

3
(DK)

4
(RF)

(621)

28 Most people get their information about justice from the news media. If you wanted more information about organized crime, corrections or some other justice issue which of the following sources might you use? Would you (read and rotate A-D)?

	Yes	No	(DK)	(RF)	
A. use the Internet?	1	2	3	4	(622)
B. use 1-800 lines?	1	2	3	4	(623)
C. turn to community groups?	1	2	3	4	(624)
D. printed materials mailed directly to your home?	1	2	3	4	(625)

DEMOGRAPHICS

D1a. Are you employed full-time, part-time or not at all?

1	Full-time				
2	Part-time	(Continue)			
3	Not at all				
4	(DK)	(Skip to D2)			
5	(Refused)				91 (413)

D1b. Is your place of employment at home or outside the home?

1	At home				
2	Outside home				
3	(DK)				
4	(Refused)				(472)

D2. What is your marital status? (Open ended and code)

1	Single				
2	Married				
3	Widowed/Divorced/Separated				
4	Living as married				
5	(DK)				
6	(Refused)				92 (414)

D3. What was the language you first spoke in childhood and still understand? (Open ended and code)

01	Other (list)				
02	(DK)				
03	(Refused)				
04	HOLD				
05	HOLD				
06	English				93.10
07	French				(415) (416)

(DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUED)

D4. What is your religious preference? (Open ended and code)

- 01 Other (list)
- 02 (DK)
- 03 (Refused)
- 04 None
- 05 HOLD

- 06 Protestant
- 07 Jewish
- 08 Roman Catholic

94.10

(417) (418)

D5a. Which of these was the last school that you attended? (Read 06-10)

- 01 Other (list)
-----+
- 02 (DK)
- 03 (Refused)
- 04 No formal schooling | (Skip to D6)
- 05 HOLD |
- +
- 06 Public/Grade school
- 07 Secondary school
- 08 University

Post secondary and non-university

- 09 Community college
- 10 C.E.G.E.P

95.10

(419) (420)

D5b. Did you graduate from (response in D5a)?

1	2	3	
Yes	No	(DK/RF)	95.50 (421)

(437) (438) (439) (440)

D12. Please give me the six characters of your postal code. (Open ended and code all six digits of postal code)

999999 (DK/Refused)

98.50

(150) (151) (152) (153) (154) (155)

D13. Please tell me your total annual family income from all sources before tax deductions. Is it (read 01-10)?

01 Under \$10,000

02 \$10,000 to less than \$15,000

03 \$15,000 to less than \$20,000

04 \$20,000 to less than \$30,000

05 \$30,000 to less than \$40,000

06 \$40,000 to less than \$50,000

07 \$50,000 to less than \$60,000

08 \$60,000 to less than \$70,000

09 \$70,000 to less than \$80,000

10 \$80,000 and over

99.50

11 (DK)

12 (Refused)

(447) (448)

(DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUED)

D14. How many different RESIDENTIAL phone lines; that is non-business lines, do you have in your household? We need the number of non-business phone lines, NOT the actual number of telephones. (Open ended and code actual number of residential lines)

97 97+

98 (DK)

99 (Refused)

(469) (470)

(VALIDATE PHONE NUMBER AND THANK RESPONDENT)

INTERVIEWER I.D.#

(170) (171) (172) (173)

D6. What is your occupation? (Open ended and code)

01	Other (list)	
02	HOLD	
03	(Refused)	
04	Not employed	
05	Retired	
06	Student	
07	Homemaker	96.10
		(422) (423)

D7. How many people, including yourself, are there living in this household?
(Open ended and code actual number)

01	One - (Skip to D10)	
98	(DK)	
99	(Refused)	98
		(430) (431)

(DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUED)

D8. How many would be under 10 years? (Open ended and code actual number)

00	None	
98	(DK)	
99	(Refused)	98.10
		(432) (433)

D9. How many would be between 10 and 17 years? (Open ended and code actual number)

00	None	
98	(DK)	
99	(Refused)	98.20
		(434) (435)

D10. Are you yourself, a member of a labour union, or is your husband/wife a labour union member?

1	Yes, myself	
2	Yes, my spouse	
3	Yes, both	
4	No	
5	(DK)	
6	(Refused)	98.30 (436)

D11. What was your year of birth? (Open ended and code all four digits of year)

9999	(DK/Refused)	98.40
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APPENDIX C: BIBLIOGRAPHY

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