



**Fight Crime – Invest in
Kids**

**National Law
Enforcement
Leadership Survey**

August 2002

**Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs &
Prosecutors:**

**Attitudes Towards Youth
Crime And Violence
Prevention Strategies**

Conducted by

Mason-Dixon Polling & Research
10805 Hickory Ridge Road
Suite 200 B
Columbia, MD 21044
301-519-9688

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Methodology

This survey was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. from July 30 through August 10, 2002. A total of 1178 chiefs of police, sheriffs and prosecutors were surveyed nationwide by fax.

Those surveyed were randomly selected from a national list of law enforcement agency heads and prosecuting attorneys. The survey sample was designed to properly reflect the demographic profile of the universe of state and local law enforcement jurisdictions nationwide.

The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than ± 3.0 percentage points for the entire sample. This means that there is a 95 percent probability that the "true" figure would fall within that range if all of the nation's approximately 17 thousand chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors were interviewed.

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view:		
Providing quality educational child care programs for preschool-age children of low- and moderate-income working parents will help children succeed in school and significantly reduce crime and violence when the children grow up; or		85.2%
Providing quality educational child care programs for preschool-age children of low- and moderate-income working parents will have little impact on youth crime and violence.		14.8%
Based on your public policy experience in law enforcement and crime prevention, please indicate which of the following strategies would have the greatest impact in reducing youth violence and crime. Please rank each of the strategies from 1 to 4, with 1 having the greatest impact in reducing youth violence and crime and 4 the least impact.		
Provide more educational child care programs for preschool age children and after-school programs for school age youngsters.	1 - Greatest Impact	71.1%
	2 -	11.8%
	3 -	9.3%
	4 - Least Impact	7.8%
Hire more police officers to investigate juvenile crimes.	1 - Greatest Impact	14.9%
	2 -	51.2%
	3 -	26%
	4 - Least Impact	7.9%

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Prosecute and jail more juveniles as adults.	1 - Greatest Impact	12.1%
	2 -	19.9%
	3 -	33.7%
	4 - Least Impact	34.2%
Install more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools.	1 - Greatest Impact	2.3%
	2 -	17%
	3 -	31.1%
	4 - Least Impact	49.7%
<p>Congress is about to decide funding levels through 2007 for the Child Care and Development Block grant, which pays a portion of child care costs for low- and moderate-income working families. Its current funding level enables it to help about one out of seven eligible families. Do you think Congress should:</p>		
Enact phased increases so that by 2007 all low and moderate-income families will have affordable access to good educational child care and after-school care.	79.9%	
Limit the expansion of this funding to the amount needed to assure access only for those families that have been on welfare.	9%	
Do not expand funding for educational child care and after-school care.	11.1%	
<p>Congress is also deciding how much federal funding to provide for school-based and community-based after-school programs. Do you think expanding after-school programs will:</p>		
significantly reduce youth crime and violence; or	77.6%	
have little impact on crime and violence.	22.4%	
<p>Do you believe that offering parenting coaching for at-risk parents and expanding resources for other child abuse prevention and foster care programs will:</p>		
significantly reduce youth crime and violence; or	81.3%	
have little impact on crime and violence.	18.6%	