

CRIME IN CANADA: CANADIANS SPEAK UP ON THE CAUSES



Ipsos Reid

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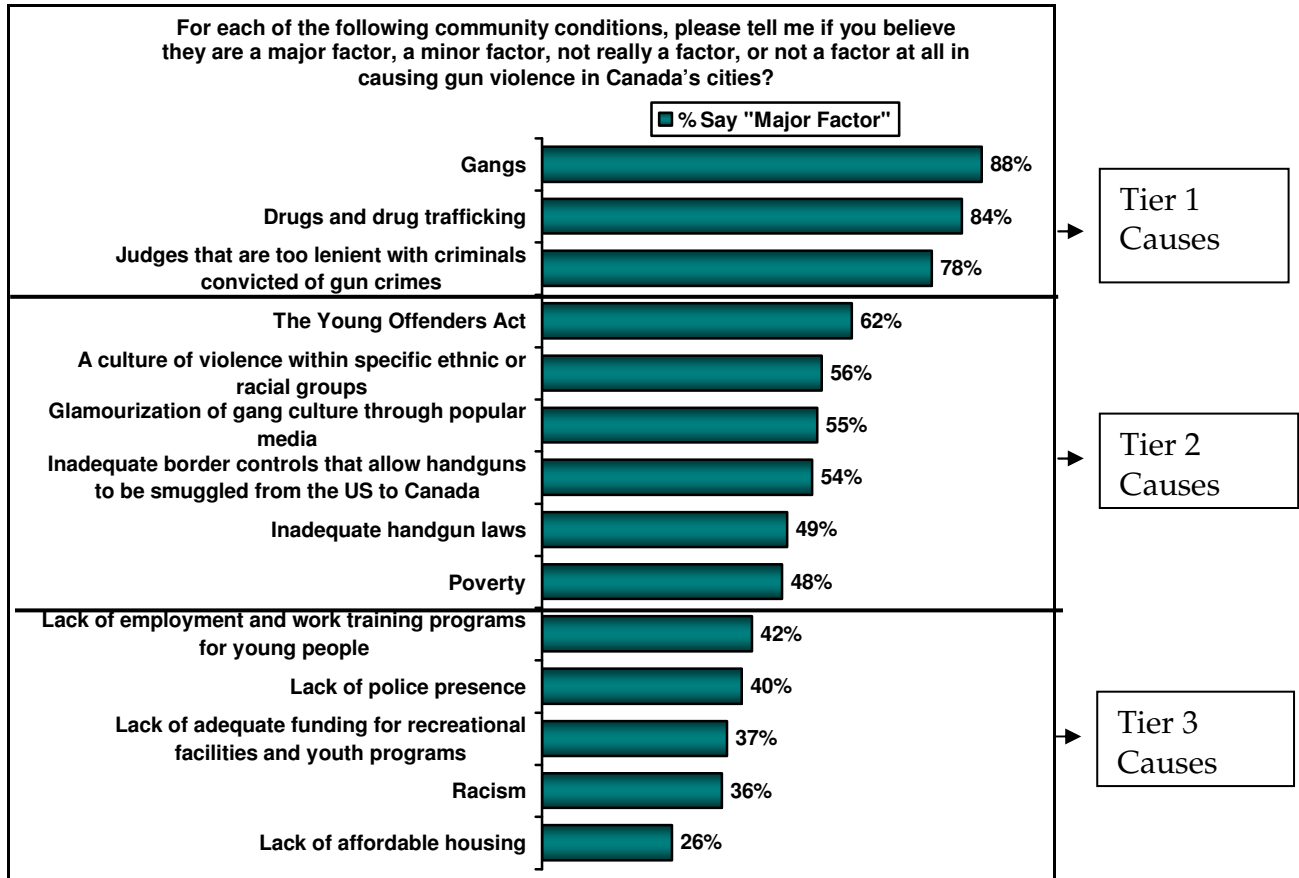
Toronto, ON – According to the latest Ipsos Reid survey, conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News from December 30th, 2005 to January 2nd, 2006, Canadians offer up three main conditions that they see as the top factors causing gun violence in Canada's cities, "gangs" (88%), "drugs and drug trafficking" (84%), and "judges that are too lenient with criminals convicted of gun crimes" (78%).

And within the city that has been most affected by gun crime in the past year, Torontonians emphasize the same factors as being the top causes of gun violence as do Canadians as a whole.

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted for CanWest News Service/Global News from December 30th, 2005 to January 2nd, 2006. A total of 8336 Canadian voters were surveyed via the internet, yielding results which are accurate to within $\pm 1.1\%$ (19 times out of 20). The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. The data were statistically weighted to ensure that the sample's age, sex, regional and party support composition reflects that of the actual Canadian voter population. The sample was drawn from a pre-recruited panel of over 12,000 voters drawn from Ipsos Reid's internet panel.

Top Three Causes of Gun Crime – The National Picture...

According to Canadians, the top three factors causing gun violence in Canada's cities are "gangs" (88%), "drugs and drug trafficking" (84%), and "judges that are too lenient with criminals convicted of gun crimes" (78%).

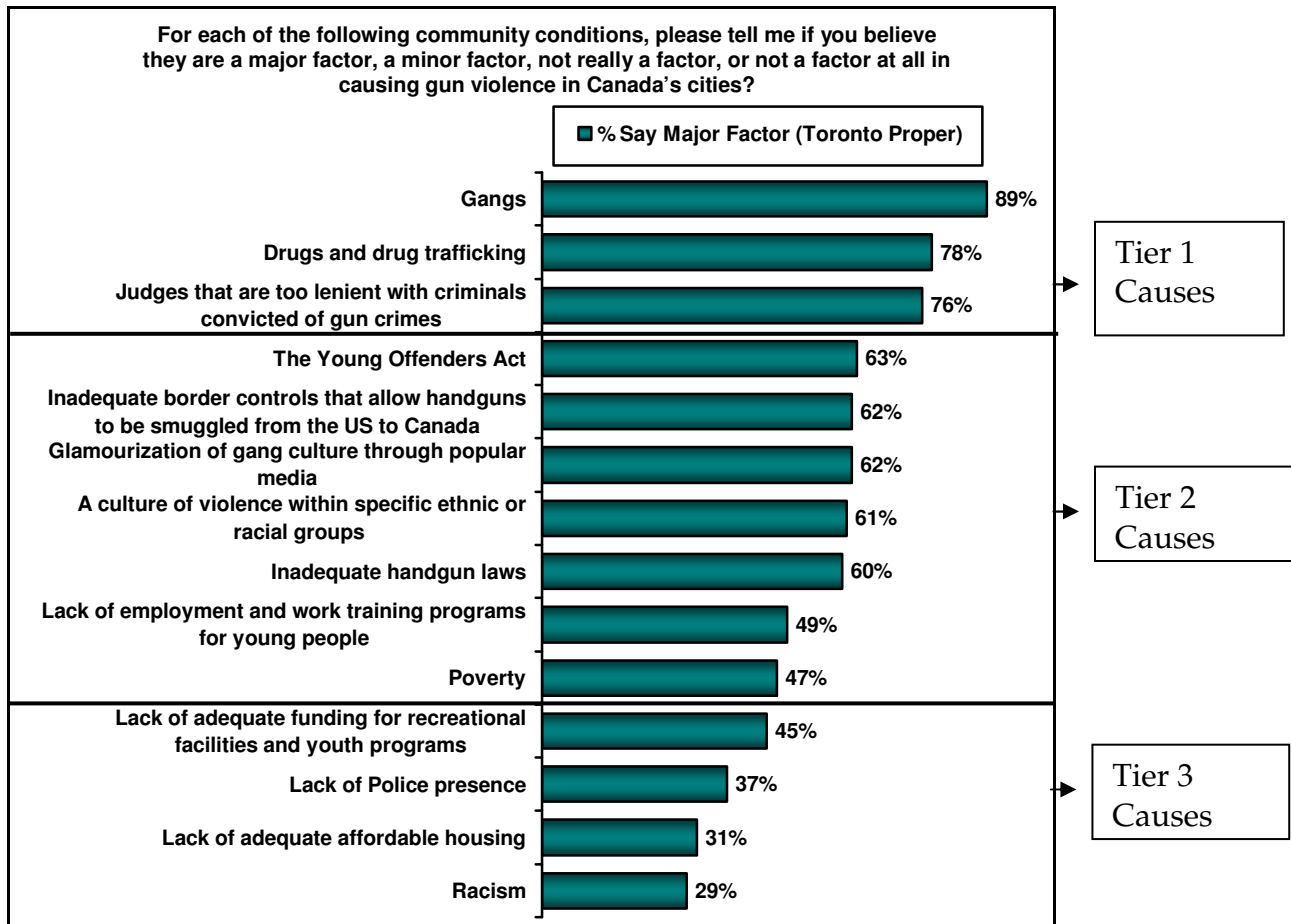


		Region						
		Nationwide	Atlantic Canada	Quebec	Ontario	Man/ Sask	Alberta	British Columbia
Tier 1 Causes	Gangs	88%	86%	87%	89%	88%	91%	87%
	Drugs and drug trafficking	84%	88%	85%	81%	85%	87%	88%
	Judges that are too lenient with criminals convicted of gun crimes	78%	72%	78%	78%	80%	81%	81%

- Residents of Alberta (91%), Ontario (89%) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (88%) are the most likely to say "gangs" are a major factor.

And In Toronto...

Torontonians emphasize the same issues as being “Tier 1 Causes” of gun violence as do Canadians as a whole.



Seven In Ten Canadians (70%) Strongly Agree That Communities Need To Stop Using Racism As An Excuse...

Seven in ten Canadians (70%) “strongly agree” with the statement that “leaders from minority communities need to stop using racism as an excuse for inaction and get serious about cleaning up gangs in their community” (24% somewhat agree). The remaining 7% of Canadians disagree with this statement.

- Strong agreement with this statement is highest in Ontario (72%), Manitoba/Saskatchewan and Quebec (both at 70%).
- Seven in ten in Toronto (70%) agree with this statement.

Canadians Split On Whether Crime Rates Are Up Or Down...

When it comes to the statement “while crime is getting a lot of attention from the media these days, the truth is that crime rates are lower today than they were five years ago”, Canadians are split: Half (49%) agree with this statement (10% strongly agree) and half (52%) disagree (17% strongly disagree).

- Agreement with this statement is highest in Ontario (52%) and British Columbia (51%) – 49% of Torontonians agree with this statement.
- Disagreement is highest in Alberta and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (both at 57%).

One In Seven (16%) Want Firearm To Protect Family...

One in seven Canadians (16%), or approximately 3,952,000 adult Canadians, agrees with the statement that “more and more I want to have a firearm in my household to protect my family and myself” (6% strongly agree). A majority of Canadians (84%), though, disagree with this statement --- 67% strongly disagree.

- Agreement is highest in Alberta (24%) and Manitoba/Saskatchewan (23%) – 16% in Toronto agree with this statement.

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