

CRIME IN CANADA: CANADIANS SPEAK UP ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE



Ipsos Reid

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CRIME IN CANADA: CANADIANS SPEAK UP ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

Toronto, ON – According to a recent Ipsos Reid survey conducted on behalf of CanWest News Service/Global News, Canadians most strongly believe in implementing four gang violence fighting initiatives:

1. Changing the laws so that committing a gun crime has a mandatory ten year sentence with no chance of parole or early release (73% strongly agree);
2. Forcing all young offenders charged with a gun crime to be treated as adults by the courts (71% strongly agree);
3. Putting in place special screening at the border to catch gun smugglers (62% strongly agree); and
4. On-going major police sweeps of communities where police believe gangs and guns are present (60% strongly agree).

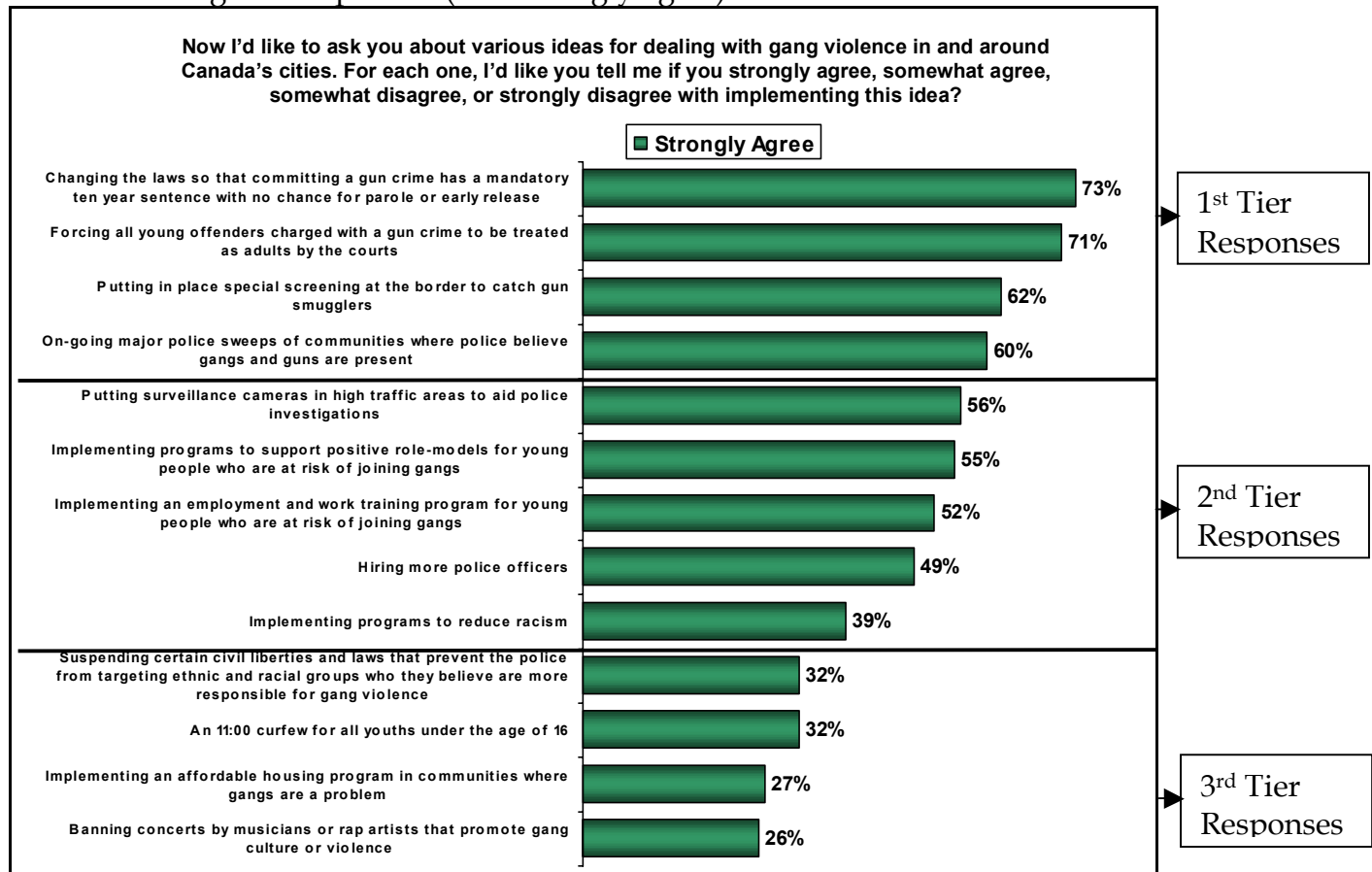
Meanwhile, in the city of Toronto, residents share the same views of Canadians as a whole when it comes to their top four initiatives, but they also strongly believe in two other initiatives, “putting surveillance cameras in high traffic areas to aid police investigations (59% strongly agree) and “implementing an employment work training program for young people who are at risk of joining gangs” (57%).

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.

What To Do About Gun Crime Violence? Canadians Offer Their Top Four Responses...

When read a list of various ideas for dealing with gang violence in and around Canada's cities, the top four responses identified by Canadians are:

1. Changing the laws so that committing a gun crime has a mandatory ten year sentence with no chance of parole or early release (73% strongly agree);
2. Forcing all young offenders charged with a gun crime to be treated as adults by the courts (71% strongly agree);
3. Putting in place special screening at the border to catch gun smugglers (62% strongly agree); and
4. On-going major police sweeps of communities where police believe gangs and guns are present (60% strongly agree).

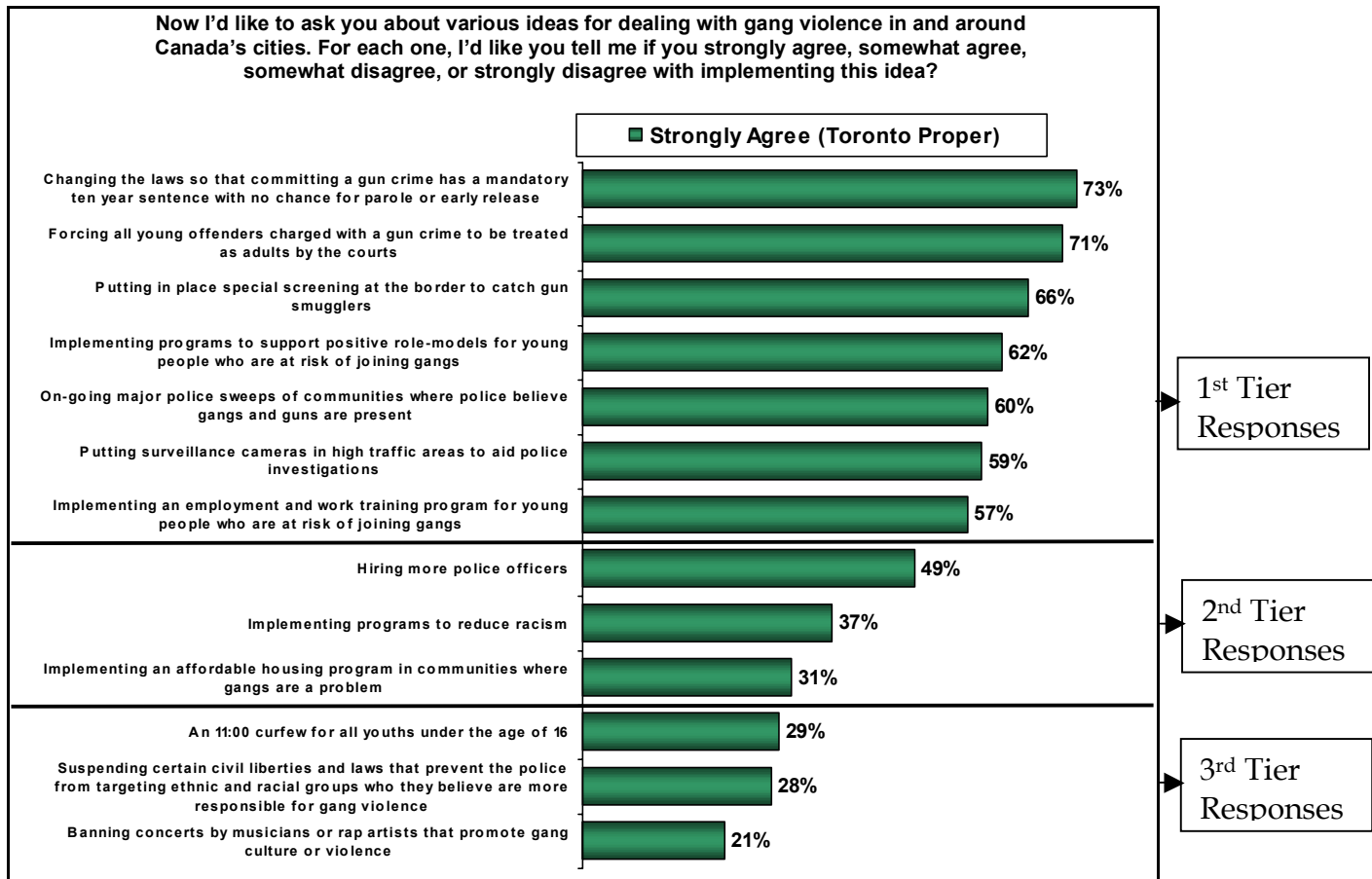


In The Regions...

% Who Strongly Agree	Total	Atlantic Canada	Quebec	Ontario	MB/SK	Alberta	British Columbia
Changing the laws so that committing a gun crime has a mandatory ten year sentence with no chance for parole or early release	73%	66%	71%	75%	73%	73%	72%
Forcing all young offenders charged with a gun crime to be treated as adults by the courts	71%	68%	66%	73%	72%	74%	72%
Putting in place special screening at the border to catch gun smugglers	62%	61%	67%	64%	50%	53%	63%
On-going major police sweeps of communities where police believe gangs and guns are present	60%	60%	60%	62%	60%	57%	57%
Putting surveillance cameras in high traffic areas to aid police investigations	56%	62%	50%	60%	52%	50%	58%
Implementing programs to support positive role-models for young people who are at risk of joining gangs	55%	60%	55%	57%	54%	52%	52%
Implementing an employment and work training program for young people who are at risk of joining gangs	52%	55%	56%	52%	51%	47%	47%
Hiring more police officers	49%	55%	40%	51%	55%	55%	55%
Implementing programs to reduce racism	39%	47%	45%	35%	33%	38%	36%
Implementing an affordable housing program in communities where gangs are a problem	27%	30%	31%	26%	25%	23%	22%
Banning concerts by musicians or rap artists that promote gang culture or violence	26%	28%	31%	23%	25%	23%	24%

- Opinions, overall, are consistent across all regions of Canada.

In Toronto...



- Residents of Toronto have a larger set of 1st Tier priorities that they “strongly agree” should be implemented than do Canadians as a whole.

And Which Initiative Would Canadians Most Like To See Implemented In The Next Six Months?

And, if made to choose which initiative they would like to see implemented in the next six months, the two most popular choices, by quite a substantial margin are:

- Changing the laws so that committing a gun crime has a mandatory ten year sentence with no chance for parole or early release; and

- Forcing all young offenders charged with a gun crime to be treated as adults by the courts.

	Canada as a whole
Changing the laws so that committing a gun crime has a mandatory ten year sentence with no chance for parole or early release	49%
Forcing all young offenders charged with a gun crime to be treated as adults by the courts	39%
Implementing an employment and work training program for young people who are at risk of joining gangs	19%
Hiring more police officers	15%
On-going major police sweeps of communities where police believe gangs and guns are present	14%
Implementing programs to support positive role-models for young people who are at risk of joining gangs	12%
Putting surveillance cameras in high traffic areas to aid police investigations	11%
Putting in place special screening at the border to catch gun smugglers	11%
An 11:00 curfew for all youths under the age of 16	10%
Suspending certain civil liberties and laws that prevent the police from targeting ethnic and racial groups who they believe are more responsible for gang violence	9%
Implementing an affordable housing program in communities where gangs are a problem	6%
Implementing programs to reduce racism	4%
Banning concerts by musicians or rap artists that promote gang culture or violence	2%

	Toronto Proper
Changing the laws so that committing a gun crime has a mandatory ten year sentence with no chance for parole or early release	53%
Forcing all young offenders charged with a gun crime to be treated as adults by the courts	37%
Implementing an employment and work training program for young people who are at risk of joining gangs	23%
On-going major police sweeps of communities where police believe gangs and guns are present	17%
Hiring more police officers	13%
Implementing programs to support positive role-models for young people who are at risk of joining gangs	13%
Putting in place special screening at the border to catch gun smugglers	12%
Putting surveillance cameras in high traffic areas to aid police investigations	11%
Suspending certain civil liberties and laws that prevent the police from targeting ethnic and racial groups who they believe are more responsible for gang violence	6%
Implementing an affordable housing program in communities where gangs are a problem	6%
An 11:00 curfew for all youths under the age of 16	6%
Implementing programs to reduce racism	3%
Banning concerts by musicians or rap artists that promote gang culture or violence	1%

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