



**Ipsos Reid Global News Gang Violence Poll  
Final Results – October 29, 2007**

**Methodology – Long Version**

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Global BC. The poll was fielded October 26 to 29, 2007 with a representative sample of 400 adult residents of Metro Vancouver. With a sample of this size, the results are considered accurate to within  $\pm 4.9$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what they would have been had the entire adult population of Metro Vancouver been polled. The margin of error will be larger within regions and for other sub-groupings of the survey population. These data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional and age/sex composition reflects that of the actual Metro Vancouver population according to 2006 Census data.

The polling was conducted using Ipsos Reid's "Voice of the West Interactive Forum" – an online panel of more than 1,600 British Columbians who have been randomly recruited to match the overall characteristics of the adult residents of the province.

**Methodology – Short Version**

These are the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of Global BC. The survey was fielded October 26 to 29, 2007 with a random sample of 400 adult residents of Metro Vancouver. The survey has a margin of error of  $\pm 4.9$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

**Ipsos Reid Contact**

Kyle Braid, Vice President, Ipsos Reid Public Affairs, (778) 373-5130

## RESULTS

### **Seriousness of Gang Violence Problem**

*Q1. In your opinion, how serious a problem is gang violence in ...?*

Comments: Nearly all residents think gang violence is a serious problem in the Greater Vancouver region, including six-in-ten who rate it as a "very serious" problem for the region.

The results are less dire when residents think about their own local community. About half rate gang violence as a serious problem in their local community, including two-in-ten who rate it as a "very serious" problem.

There are age differences in the responses to both questions. Older residents (45+ years) are more likely to rate gang violence as a "very serious" problem in the Greater Vancouver region and are more likely to rate it as a serious problem (very or somewhat) in their local community).

The Greater Vancouver Region	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Very serious problem	62	59	65	52	72
Somewhat serious problem	33	34	31	42	23
Not very serious problem	4	6	2	6	3
Not at all serious problem	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	1	1	1	0	1
<i>Total Serious (Very + Somewhat)</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>95</i>

Your Local Community	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Very serious problem	19	21	18	16	23
Somewhat serious problem	33	35	31	27	39
Not very serious problem	34	32	36	44	24
Not at all serious problem	12	12	12	12	13
Don't know	1	0	2	1	1
<i>Total Serious (Very + Somewhat)</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>62</i>

### Perceptions of Change in Gang Violence Problem

Q2. Over the past five years, would you say there has been an increase or a decrease in the amount of gang violence in ...?

Comments: Nine-in-ten residents think gang violence has increased over the last five years in the Greater Vancouver region, including seven-in-ten who say it has "increased a lot".

Six-in-ten residents also say that gang violence has increased in their own local community over the last five years, including nearly three-in-ten who say it has "increased a lot".

Perceptions of an increase at both the regional and local level are stronger among older residents.

The Greater Vancouver Region	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Increased a lot	69	68	70	61	76
Increased a little	22	19	25	27	18
No change	6	9	3	9	3
Decreased a little	1	1	1	2	1
Decreased a lot	1	1	1	0	1
Don't know	1	2	1	1	1
<i>Total Increased</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>94</i>
<i>Total Decreased</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>

Your Local Community	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Increased a lot	27	25	29	22	32
Increased a little	32	35	30	31	33
No change	34	37	32	39	29
Decreased a little	1	1	1	1	2
Decreased a lot	1	1	1	0	1
Don't know	5	2	8	7	3
<i>Total Increased</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>65</i>
<i>Total Decreased</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>

### **Comparing Greater Vancouver to Other Major Cities**

*Q3. Do you think gang violence is a bigger problem here in Greater Vancouver or in ...?*

Comments: Overall, residents think the gang violence problem in Greater Vancouver is no worse than in other major Canadian or US cities.

Only one-quarter say the problem here is worse than in other major Canadian cities like Toronto and Montreal.

Fewer than one-in-ten say the problem here is worse than in major US Cities like New York, Los Angeles and Miami.

<b>Other Major Canadian Cities Like Toronto and Montreal</b>	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Bigger problem here	25	28	23	20	30
Bigger problem there	20	18	21	22	17
About the same in both	48	48	49	49	48
Don't know	7	6	7	9	5

<b>Major US Cities Like New York, Los Angeles and Miami</b>	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Bigger problem here	8	9	7	8	9
Bigger problem there	63	61	65	71	55
About the same in both	20	21	19	14	26
Don't know	9	8	9	7	10

### **Worry About Gang Violence**

*Q4. How worried are you that ... could be hurt as a result of gang violence?*

Comments: Four-in-ten residents say they are at least somewhat worried that they could personally be hurt as a result of gang violence, although only one-in-ten say they are "very worried".

About half of residents say they are at least somewhat worried a friend or family member could be hurt as a result of gang violence.

Older residents (45+ years) are more likely to be worried that they or their family/friends could be hurt as a result of gang violence.

<b>You Personally</b>	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Very worried	9	10	8	8	10
Somewhat worried	30	25	35	24	37
Not very worried	42	45	40	46	39
Not at all worried	18	20	17	23	14
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Total Worried (Very + Somewhat)</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>47</i>

<b>A Family Member or One of Your Close Friends</b>	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Very worried	14	14	14	12	16
Somewhat worried	38	38	38	30	45
Not very worried	35	35	34	41	28
Not at all worried	14	12	15	17	10
Don't know	<1	1	0	0	1
<i>Total Worried (Very + Somewhat)</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>62</i>

### **Changing Behaviour Because of Gang Violence**

*Q5. In the last 12 months, have you ever changed your behaviour because you were worried about the possibility of gang violence?*

Comments: Two-in-ten residents say they have changed their behaviour at some point in the last 12 months because they were worried about the possibility of gang violence.

Older residents (45+) are twice as likely as younger residents to report changing their behaviour.

	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Yes	21	21	22	15	28
No	78	79	77	85	70
Don't know	1	1	1	0	2

The main behavioural changes (asked in a follow-up open-ended question) include the following:

- Avoiding areas known to have gang activity, especially at night. This includes many mentions of downtown Vancouver and Surrey.
- Not using transit or SkyTrain alone in the evenings.
- Not going out at night.
- Less frequent visits to bars and nightclubs, especially in downtown Vancouver.
- Less frequent visits to restaurants, especially late at night.

### Performance at Dealing with Gang Violence

Q6. How would you rate the performance of each of the following at dealing with gang violence in Greater Vancouver?

Comments: Residents give the police generally favourable reviews for dealing with gang violence in Greater Vancouver. Two-thirds say the police are doing a good job, compared to three-in-ten who say the police are doing a bad job.

The reviews are very poor for all levels of government and the court system in dealing with gang violence. Only two-in-ten say local/municipal governments are doing a good job and only one-in-ten give favourable reviews to the federal government, provincial government or the court system.

The Police	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Very good job	14	12	16	13	15
Somewhat good job	53	56	51	53	54
Somewhat poor job	23	20	25	26	20
Very poor job	8	10	7	8	9
Don't know	2	2	2	1	2
<i>Total Good Job</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>69</i>
<i>Total Poor Job</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>28</i>

Local/Municipal Governments	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Very good job	<1	1	0	0	1
Somewhat good job	18	16	21	16	20
Somewhat poor job	44	47	41	48	40
Very poor job	30	32	27	30	29
Don't know	8	5	11	7	9
<i>Total Good Job</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Total Poor Job</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>70</i>

The Provincial Government	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Very good job	<1	1	0	1	0
Somewhat good job	9	10	9	6	13
Somewhat poor job	43	44	41	50	35
Very poor job	42	41	43	38	46
Don't know	5	4	7	5	6
<i>Total Good Job</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Total Poor Job</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>81</i>

The Federal Government	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Very good job	1	1	1	0	2
Somewhat good job	9	11	6	7	10
Somewhat poor job	40	41	40	46	35
Very poor job	41	44	39	37	46
Don't know	9	4	14	11	8
<i>Total Good Job</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Total Poor Job</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>81</i>

The Court System	Total (n=400) %	By Sex		By Age	
		Men (n=192) %	Women (n=208) %	18-44 Yrs (n=199) %	45+ Yrs (n=201) %
Very good job	<1	1	0	0	1
Somewhat good job	6	6	7	6	7
Somewhat poor job	27	26	28	33	22
Very poor job	64	65	64	60	68
Don't know	2	2	1	1	2
<i>Total Good Job</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Total Poor Job</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>91</i>