

# Survey of Illinois Law Enforcement Leaders On Reducing School and Youth Violence (Police Chiefs, State's Attorneys, and Sheriffs)

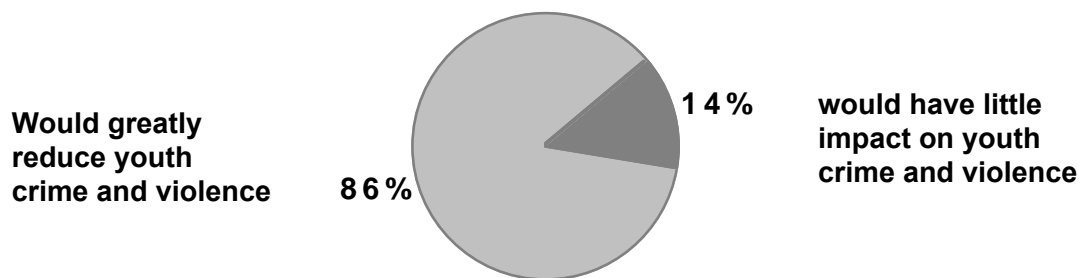
Conducted by George Mason University Professors  
Stephen D. Mastrofski, Director of the Administration of Justice Program, and Scott  
Keeter, Chair of the Department of Public and International Affairs.

The Police Chiefs, State's Attorneys and Sheriffs were asked:

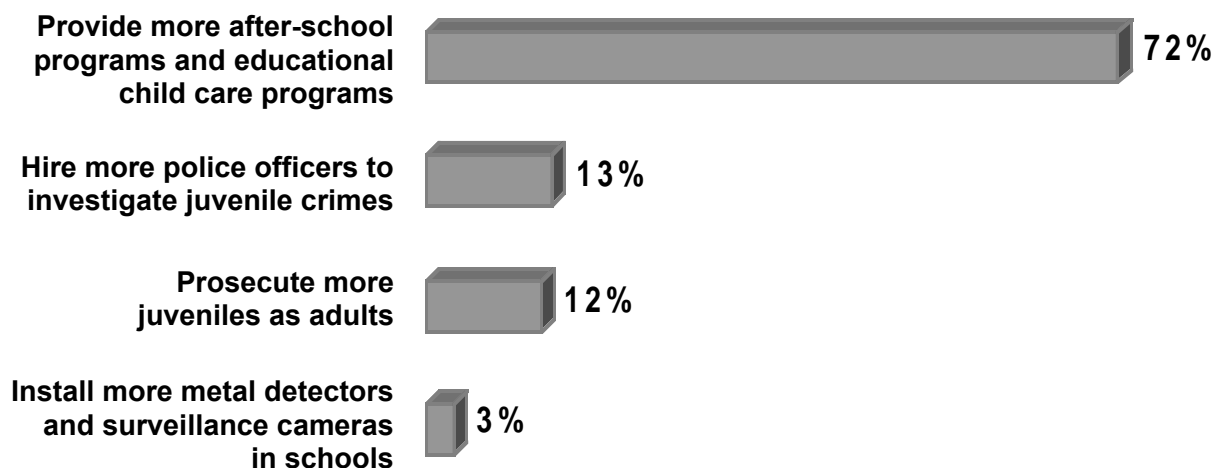
## 1) Which of these statements comes closer to your view?

Statements: Expanding after-school programs and educational child care programs like Head Start would greatly reduce youth crime and violence.

Expanding after-school programs and educational child care programs like Head Start would have little impact on youth crime and violence.



## 2) Which of these strategies do you think is most effective?\*

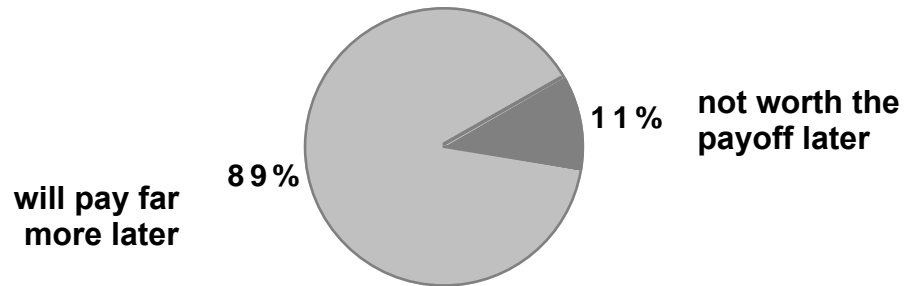


\* In order to guide elected officials please rank the following four strategies. Place a "1" next to the approach you think will ultimately have the biggest impact in reducing youth violence, a "2" for the next most effective, and so forth. (Please rank all strategies and do not give the same ranking to more than one strategy). [Percentages shown are those ranked "1".]

**3) Which of these statements comes closer to your view?**

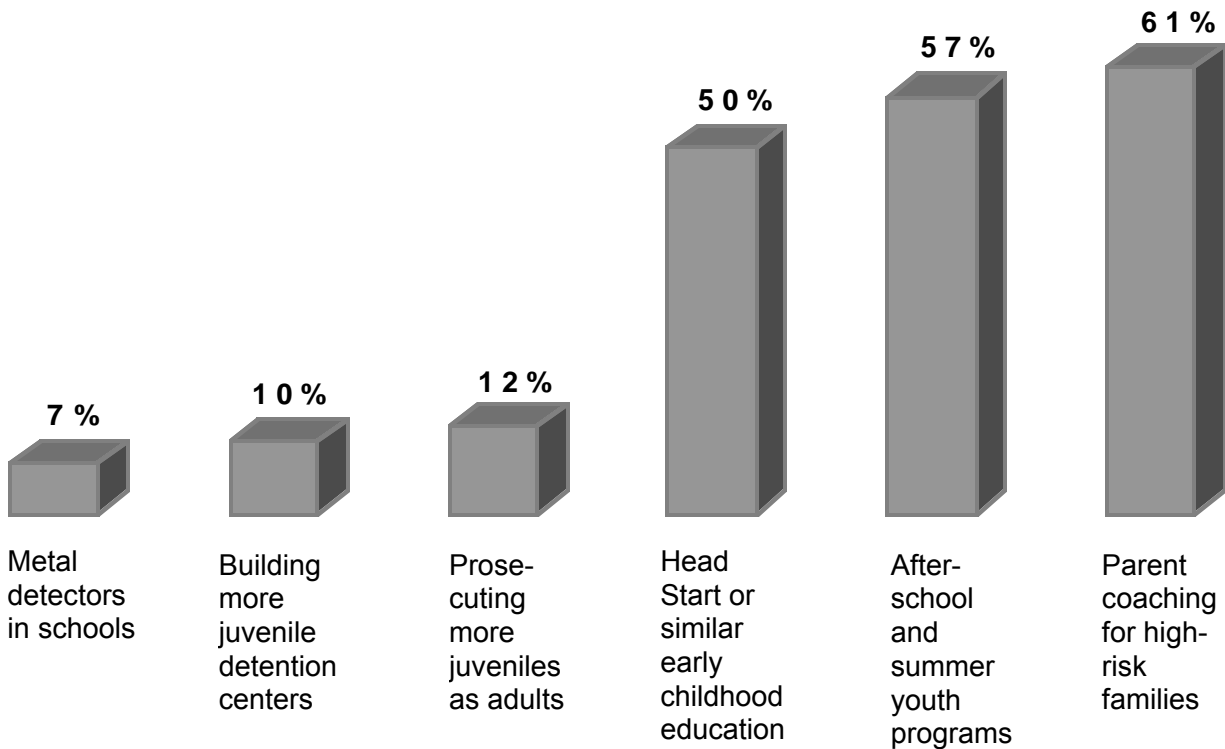
Statements: If America *does not* make greater investments in after-school and educational child care programs to help children and youth now, we will pay far more later in crime, welfare, and other costs.

If America *makes* greater investments in after-school and educational child care programs to help children and youth now, the cost of these programs will not be worth the payoff later.



**4) Please rate the following strategies on a scale of 1 (“Very Valuable”) to 5 (“Not At All Valuable”) on their value as a crime prevention tool.**

This chart shows the percentage for each strategy that received a “1” rating by the law enforcement leaders.



**The poll was conducted for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, from March 3rd, through March 19th, 2000. The survey was sent to 359 Chiefs of departments with 10 or more officers, and the 101 Sheriffs and 101 State's Attorneys for Illinois. A total of 365 law enforcement leaders responded, for a response rate of 65%: 259 Chiefs, 60 State's Attorneys, and 46 Sheriffs. 28 of the 259 Chiefs had responded to an earlier wave of the survey in October 1999. Sampling error for the total sample (combining Chiefs, State's Attorneys and Sheriffs) is approximately 5 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence.**