

**Mason-Dixon
Polling & Research**

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

**Iowa Law Enforcement
Leadership Survey**

April 2002

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

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

Conducted by

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FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
Statewide Survey of Iowa Law Enforcement Leaders

This survey was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. from April 17 through 23, 2002. A total of 479 surveys were sent to Iowa chiefs of police, sheriffs and county attorneys by fax. Thirty-five percent (35%) of those who received the survey responded (N=166).

The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than ± 5.1 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 479 law enforcement officials 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 ultimately prevent crime and violence when the children grow up.	88.3%	
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.	11.7%	
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 low- and moderate-income families with access to quality educational childcare for preschool children when the parents are at work.	73.2 %	
Hire more police officers to investigate juvenile crimes.	16.4%	
Prosecute and jail more juveniles as adults.	8.1%	
Install more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools.	4.4 %	
Hire more police officers to investigate juvenile crimes.	1 - Greatest Impact	16.4 %
	2 -	54.7 %
	3 -	21.4 %
	4 - Least Impact	7.5 %
Provide low- and moderate-income families with access to quality educational childcare for preschool children when the parents are at work.	1 - Greatest Impact	73.2 %
	2 -	9.8 %
	3 -	10.4 %
	4 - Least Impact	6.7 %
Prosecute and jail more juveniles as adults.	1 - Greatest Impact	8.1 %
	2 -	18.1 %
	3 -	33.1 %
	4 - Least Impact	40.0 %
Install more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools.	1 - Greatest Impact	4.4 %
	2 -	16.9 %
	3 -	35.6 %
	4 - Least Impact	43.1 %

In 1996, landmark welfare reform legislation was passed by Congress and signed into law. Now that the country has had 5 years of experience with the legislation, Congress is considering proposals to improve the legislation. For each of the following policy proposals, please indicate whether you think it would in the long run increase crime, have no effect on crime, or reduce crime.

	Ultimately Reduce Crime	86.1 %
	Have No Effect On Crime	13.3 %
	Ultimately Increase Crime	.06 %
Assuring that when parents move from welfare to work, their children have access to quality educational childcare.	Ultimately Reduce Crime	75.9 %
	Have No Effect On Crime	22.9 %
	Ultimately Increase Crime	1.2 %
Continuing educational childcare assistance for welfare-to-work families until the parent's wages are reasonably sufficient to purchase quality care themselves.	Ultimately Reduce Crime	4.8 %
	Have No Effect On Crime	27.9 %
	Ultimately Increase Crime	67.3 %
Cutting off childcare assistance for low- and moderate-income families after a specified number of months, regardless of how much they earn or the cost of childcare in the area.	Ultimately Reduce Crime	79.8 %
	Have No Effect On Crime	17.8%
	Ultimately Increase Crime	2.5 %
Assuring low- and moderate-income families affordable access to educational childcare when parents are at work even if the family has never been on welfare.		