



**Fight Crime: Invest in
Kids**

**Maine 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 Maine Law Enforcement

This survey was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. from April 17 through 23, 2002. A total of 163 surveys were sent to Maine chiefs of police, sheriffs and prosecutors by fax. Forty percent (40%) of those who received the survey responded (N=65).

The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than ± 7.5 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 163 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.	86.9%	
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.	13.1%	
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.		Percent Saying Strategy Would Have the Greatest Impact on Reducing Youth Violence and Crime
Provide low- and moderate-income families with access to quality educational childcare for preschool children when the parents are at work.	63.5%	
Hire more police officers to investigate juvenile crimes.	19.4%	
Prosecute and jail more juveniles as adults.	16.1%	
Install more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools.	3.2%	
Hire more police officers to investigate juvenile crimes.	1 - Greatest Impact	19.4 %
	2 -	46.8 %
	3 -	27.4 %
	4 - Least Impact	6.5 %
Provide low- and moderate-income families with access to quality educational childcare for preschool children when the parents are at work.	1 - Greatest Impact	63.5 %
	2 -	19.0 %
	3 -	12.7 %
	4 - Least Impact	4.8 %
Prosecute and jail more juveniles as adults.	1 - Greatest Impact	16.1 %
	2 -	19.4 %
	3 -	29.0 %
	4 - Least Impact	35.5 %
Install more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools.	1 - Greatest Impact	3.2 %
	2 -	12.9 %
	3 -	30.6 %
	4 - Least Impact	53.2 %

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<p>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.</p>		
<p>Assuring that when parents move from welfare to work, their children have access to quality educational childcare.</p>	Ultimately Reduce Crime	87.6 %
	Have No Effect On Crime	13.8 %
	Ultimately Increase Crime	1.5 %
<p>Continuing educational childcare assistance for welfare-to-work families until the parent's wages are reasonably sufficient to purchase quality care themselves.</p>	Ultimately Reduce Crime	80.0 %
	Have No Effect On Crime	20.0 %
	Ultimately Increase Crime	0.0 %
<p>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.</p>	Ultimately Reduce Crime	3.1 %
	Have No Effect On Crime	21.9 %
	Ultimately Increase Crime	75.0 %
<p>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.</p>	Ultimately Reduce Crime	83.1 %
	Have No Effect On Crime	16.9 %
	Ultimately Increase Crime	0.0 %