

**Mason-Dixon
Polling & Research**

Survey of American Working Mothers

Attitudes about:

- **Risks to children as they head back to school**
- **Strategies to reduce youth violence**

August 2003

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Poll commissioned by
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

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Survey of American Working Mothers

NATIONAL POLL RESULTS

This survey was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research and commissioned by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. Mason-Dixon surveyed a total of 1000 American women who work full or part-time outside the home and have school aged children (K – 12). The respondents were interviewed nationwide August 7-11, 2003. Margin for error is plus or minus 3%. Those interviewed were randomly selected using a cross-section of telephone exchanges to ensure an accurate reflection of the demographic profile of the United States.

QUESTION 1: Thinking about the challenges and risks for children as they head back to school, what is your greatest concern? (top of mind – unprompted)

57.1% - Violence, Crime, Risky Behavior

39.5% - Quality or Funding of Education

3% - Other/Don't Know

QUESTION 2: When are you most concerned about children's safety?

9.6% - During school

87.1% - During the hours after school and before parents get home from work

3.3% - Neither/Both/Not Sure

QUESTION 3: Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "America could greatly reduce youth violence if Congress expanded prevention efforts like after-school programs?"

67.3% - Strongly Agree

22.6% - Somewhat Agree

6.1% - Somewhat Disagree

3.1% - Strongly Disagree

0.9% - Not Sure

QUESTION 4: Which of the following strategies do you think would have more impact in your community in reducing youth violence both in and out of school?

71.4% - Investing more money in after-school programs that provide adult supervision,

or

17.6% - Investing more money in security measures like metal detectors, surveillance cameras?

11.0% - Not Sure

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Do you work full-time or part-time?

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 55.6% (556) | Full-time |
| 41.8% (418) | Part-time |
| 2.6% (26) | Refused |

REGION:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 23.1% (231) | NORTHEAST |
| 21.3% (213) | MIDWEST |
| 30.6% (306) | SOUTH |
| 25.0% (250) | WEST |

COMPARISONS, MOTHERS EMPLOYED FULL TIME/PART TIME:

QUESTION 1: Thinking about the challenges and risks for children as they head back to school, what is your greatest concern? (top of mind – unprompted)

| | <u>VIOLENCE/CRIME</u> | <u>QUALITY/FUNDING</u> | <u>OTHER/DK</u> |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| NATION | 57% | 40% | 3% |
| FULL-TIME | 61% | 37% | 2% |
| PART-TIME | 52% | 43% | 5% |

QUESTION 2: When are you most concerned about children’s safety?

| | <u>DURING</u> | <u>AFTER</u> | <u>NOT SURE</u> |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| NATION | 10% | 87% | 3% |
| FULL-TIME | 8% | 88% | 4% |
| PART-TIME | 13% | 85% | 2% |

QUESTION 3: Do you agree or disagree with this statement: “America could greatly reduce youth violence if Congress expanded prevention efforts like after-school programs?”

| | <u>ST AGREE</u> | <u>SW AGREE</u> | <u>SW DISAGREE</u> | <u>ST DISAGREE</u> | <u>DK</u> |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| NATION | 67% | 23% | 6% | 3% | 1% |
| FULL-TIME | 70% | 23% | 4% | 2% | 1% |
| PART-TIME | 63% | 23% | 9% | 4% | 1% |

QUESTION 4: Which of the following strategies do you think would have more impact in your community in reducing youth violence both in and out of school?

| | <u>AFTER SCHOOL</u> | <u>SECURITY</u> | <u>NOT SURE</u> |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| NATION | 71% | 18% | 11% |
| FULL-TIME | 76% | 15% | 9% |
| PART-TIME | 64% | 22% | 14% |

ITEMIZED RESPONSES:

QUESTION 1: Thinking about the challenges and risks for children as they head back to school, what is your greatest concern? (top of mind – unprompted)

20.8% - Violence/being assaulted/victim of crime

17.4% - Substance abuse/drugs/alcohol

31.5% - Quality of education

9.4% - General exposure to risk behavior/peer pressure/getting in trouble/
hanging with the wrong crowd

4.4% - Sexual activity

8.0% - Education funding/lack of funds

5.1% - Exposure to violence and inappropriate behavior on TV

0% - International terrorism

2.1% - Other

1.4% - DK/Refused