

CANADIAN PRESS/LEGER MARKETING

How Canadians Perceive Organized Crime in Canada

Executive Report

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507 Place d'Armes, suite 700, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 2W8 • Phone: 514-982-2464 • Fax: 514-987-1960 • www.legermarketing.com

1.0 Study Report

- ◆ **More than eight out of ten Canadians feel that organized crime is a serious problem.**

Q- In your opinion, is organized crime a problem which is very serious, serious, not very serious or not at all serious for Canadian society?

(n=)	Very serious	Serious	Not very serious	Not at all serious	Don't know/ Refusal
1504	37.0%	43.4%	16.0%	1.7%	1.9%

- ◆ **Drugs are the main source of revenue of organized criminal gangs, say Canadians.**

Q-In your opinion, what is the main source of income of organized crime? Is it drugs, prostitution, gambling, cigarettes and alcohol, theft, fraud...?

(n=)	Drugs	Prostitution	Gambling	Cigarettes and Alcohol	Theft	Fraud	Don't know/ Refusal
1504	74.6%	1.7%	5.8%	3.1%	3.4%	4.4%	5.9%

- ◆ **According to Canadians, police forces do not have the necessary resources to fight organized crime.**

Q-Do you think that Canadian police forces have enough financial and human resources to fight organized crime?

(n=)	YES	NO	Don't know / Refusal
1504	27.4%	61.4%	11.1%

- ◆ **Quebeckers, more than other Canadians, are more afraid of biker gangs than of traditional criminal groups.**

Q- In your opinion, which criminal group is more dangerous? Is it biker gangs or traditional criminal gangs?

(n=)	Biker Gangs	Traditional criminal gangs	DNK/Refusal
1504	33.9%	51.1%	15.0%

- ◆ **Canada is safer than the United States, say Canadians.**

Q-Do you think that Canada is safer than the United States, just as safe or not as safe?

(n=)	Safer	Just as safe	Not as safe	DNK/Refusal
1504	79.1%	14.8%	2.8%	3.3%

2.0 Results

2.1 A Majority of Canadians Feel that Organized Crime is a Serious Problem in Canada

A total of 37.0% of Canadians find that organized crime is a very serious problem while 43.4% feel it is a serious problem. However, 16.0% of them feel it is not a very serious problem and 1.7% that it is not serious at all.

More women assess the problem to be very serious (41.0%). The same goes for individuals in the 55 to 64-age group (48.9%), Francophones (51.0%), Quebecers (49.7%), persons in the lower income bracket (45.5%) and retirees (51.1%). In fact, it is in Quebec that a greater number of respondents found the problem to be very serious (49.7%) versus Prairie residents (25.4%) who found it to not be quite as serious.

Among men, 19.5% find the problem not to be serious while young people in the 18 to 24-age group share this similar opinion in a proportion of 27.6%. This is also the case for 28.1% of students and 20.4% of University-educated Canadians.

Q1 In your opinion, is organized crime a problem that is very serious, serious, not very serious or not serious at all for Canadian society? N = 1504	Very serious	Serious	Not very serious	Not at all serious	DNK/ Refusal
Atlantic Canada	32.6%	44.9%	18.0%	2.9%	1.7%
Quebec	49.7%	37.9%	10.8%	0.6%	1.0%
Ontario	32.2%	44.1%	18.3%	2.4%	3.0%
Prairies	25.4%	53.7%	17.7%	0.7%	2.5%
Alberta	34.3%	45.8%	18.1%	1.9%	0.0%
British Columbia	38.3%	42.9%	15.6%	1.0%	2.1%
Canada	37.0%	43.4%	16.0%	1.7%	2.0%

2.2 Close to Three-Quarters of Canadians Think that Drugs Represent the Main Source of Income of Organized Criminal Groups

Drugs, according to 74.6% of the population, is the main source of income of organized criminal groups. Quebeckers (81.5%) and French-speaking Canadians (83.1%) are more numerous in naming this as the main source of income. It is important to note that no significant differences were observed across the various regions of the country.

Q2 In your opinion, what is the main source of income of organized criminal groups? N =1504	Drugs	Prosti-Tution	Gambling	Cigarettes and Alcohol	Theft	Fraud	Other	DNK/Refusal
Atlantic Canada	72.8%	0.8%	12.2%	4.3%	2.9%	2.1%	0.0%	4.9%
Quebec	81.5%	1.1%	3.8%	0.4%	2.4%	5.6%	0.9%	4.4%
Ontario	70.8%	1.4%	6.6%	4.4%	3.9%	4.7%	1.0%	6.4%
Prairies	72.0%	1.3%	6.8%	1.3%	2.0%	4.6%	1.2%	10.8%
Alberta	73.9%	2.6%	8.2%	5.8%	4.7%	2.4%	0.0%	2.4%
British Columbia	75.8%	3.3%	1.2%	2.7%	3.5%	3.8%	2.1%	7.5%
Canada	74.6%	1.7%	5.8%	3.1%	3.4%	4.4%	1.0%	5.9%

2.3 A Majority of Canadians Feel that Canadian Laws are not Sufficiently Strict to Effectively Fight Organized Crime

A proportion of 59.7% of the population feels that Canadian laws are not strict enough to effectively fight organized crime.

Once again, we found that Quebecers were more likely to have this opinion (71.0%) while more Ontarians indicated that they found the laws to be strict enough in the battle against organized crime (52.8%).

Moreover, 61.4% of Canadians feel that the police forces do not have the necessary financial and human resources to fight organized criminal groups. Residents of Atlantic Canada were more convinced of this fact (69.5%) while more Ontarians found the resources to be adequate (56.6%)

Only 47.4% of individuals in the 18 to 24 age group think that police forces do not have sufficient financial and human resources along with 47.0% of citizens whose mother tongue is neither French nor English, 56.6% of Ontarians and 45.1% of people that have less schooling.

Q3 DO YOU THINK THAT CANADA HAS LAWS THAT ARE STRICT ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY FIGHT ORGANIZED CRIME ? N = 1504	Yes	No	Don't know/ Refusal
Atlantic Canada	39.3%	54.8%	5.9%
Quebec	23.3%	71.0%	5.7%
Ontario	36.4%	52.8%	10.8%
Prairies	25.4%	60.4%	14.2%
Alberta	31.9%	58.5%	9.6%
British Columbia	31.3%	62.2%	6.5%
Canada	31.5%	59.7%	8.8%

Q4 DO YOU THINK THAT CANADIAN POLICE FORCES HAVE ENOUGH FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES TO FIGHT ORGANIZED CRIME ? N = 1504	Yes	No	Don't know/ Refusal
Atlantic Canada	23.1%	69.5%	7.4%
Quebec	26.5%	62.5%	11.0%
Ontario	31.4%	56.6%	12.0%
Prairies	22.7%	64.5%	12.8%
Alberta	25.4%	62.5%	12.1%
British Columbia	23.9%	66.2%	9.9%
Canada	27.4%	61.4%	11.1%

2.4 With the Exception of Quebecers, Canadians Tend to Fear Traditional Criminal Gangs More than Biker Gangs

Can the higher level of fear of biker gangs felt by Quebecers be explained by the fact that this type of criminal group has been active longer in this province than in any other Canadian province? We are tempted to think so since 50.3% of Quebecers feel that biker gangs are more dangerous while only 28.9% of residents of other Canadian provinces share this opinion.

In fact, overall in Canada, 51.1% of the population finds that traditional criminal gangs are more dangerous than biker gangs (33.9%).

Traditional criminal gangs represent a source of fear for 69.5% of Albertans, 54.4% of women, 61.5% of young people in the 18 to 24 age-bracket and 56.8% of Anglophones.

Q5 In your opinion, which criminal group is more dangerous? Is it biker gangs or traditional criminal gangs? N = 1504	Biker gangs	Traditional criminal gangs	Dnk/ Refusal
Atlantic Canada	27.9%	64.1%	8.0%
Quebec	50.3%	32.5%	17.2%
Ontario	31.9%	52.5%	15.6%
Prairies	28.2%	62.3%	9.5%
Alberta	22.1%	69.5%	8.5%
British Columbia	24.6%	54.6%	20.7%
Canada	33.9%	51.1%	15.0%

2.5 Eight out of Ten Canadians Believe that Canada is Safer than the United States

A majority of Canadians, 79,1% of them in fact, rate Canada a safer country than the United States while 14.8% of them find both countries to offer the same level of safety. Only 2.8% feel that our southern neighbours live in a safer country.

Among people who find Canada to be safer than the United States, we find Anglophones (84.7%), Ontarians (85.2%), individuals in higher income brackets (86.3%), professionals (84.3%) and University-educated Canadians (85.0%).

Q6 Do you think that Canada is safer than the United States, just as safe or not as safe? N = 1504	Safe	Just as safe	Not as safe	Don't know/refusal
Atlantic Canada	80.5%	14.0%	3.4%	2.1%
Quebec	64.7%	24.0%	5.5%	5.7%
Ontario	85.2%	10.5%	2.3%	2.0%
Prairies	79.6%	13.7%	2.2%	4.5%
Alberta	84.5%	10.4%	0.0%	5.0%
British Columbia	83.3%	14.1%	1.5%	1.2%
Canada	79.1%	14.8%	2.8%	3.3%

3.0 Methodology

This study was conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 1504 English- or French-speaking Canadians, 18 years of age or older.

The interviews were conducted from our Montreal and Winnipeg call centers between July 3 and July 11, 2001. Up to ten recalls were made in the case of non-response.

Using data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to geographic location, gender and language spoken at home to ensure a sample representative of the entire Canadian adult population. In the end, the maximum margin of error obtained for a sample of 1504 respondents, is of $\pm 2.6\%$, 19 times out of 20.