

Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta

Provincial Public Opinion Survey on Organized Crime



Unrestricted

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Executive Summary

The goal of the Provincial Public Opinion Survey is to provide the Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta (CISA) Bureau, its Executive, and Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General with benchmark measures on the public's perception on the extent and severity of organized and serious crime in the province of Alberta.

From July 6, 2004 to July 28, 2004, Research Innovations Inc. completed a total of 1,200 telephone interviews with Alberta citizens 18 years of age or over by trained and experienced telephone interviewing personnel.

Organized crime is most frequently viewed as being involved in drug related activities – namely trafficking and importing.

Crimes most often associated to white collar or corporate crimes (credit card fraud, cheating on the stock market, illegally disposing of dangerous waste) were less likely to be identified as definite examples of organized crime.

Homicide, while not necessarily viewed as a definite example of organized crime, is perceived to be the eighth most serious criminal activity identified.

The majority of respondents believe there was a decrease in the amount of organized crime over the past year, whereas in 2003 the majority of respondents believed there to be an increase in the amount of organized crime.

The young and the elderly were identified as the most vulnerable to being victimized by organized crime.

Over the past year, respondents' belief that their local police agency deals effectively with organized crime increased from 70% in 2003 to 73% in 2004.

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and Asian-based crime are perceived to be the most active examples of organized crime operating in the province of Alberta.

Tougher sentences and providing more police officers were seen as the most effective way to deal with organized crime.



1. Introduction

1.1 Why Public Opinion Surveys?

In order to serve a range of public and government interests, the Criminal Intelligence Service Alberta needs to be well informed about the public's views and perceptions regarding organized crime. The intent of the 2004 Public Opinion Survey on Organized Crime is to explore the current public perception of serious and organized crime and assess the degree of any change in perception that might exist from the 2003 results.

Results from a 2003 Alberta Solicitor General survey indicate that the majority of Albertans obtain their information about the Alberta justice system from newspapers, television and radio. These sources of information were perceived to be accurate reflections of actual criminal activity. In light of these findings, we should be reminded that the public's perceptions of organized crime are not necessarily based on experiential knowledge, but diffused through a media spin on reality and thereby might include some inaccurate stereotypes and misinformation.

Very few polls have addressed the issue of organized crime and serious crime in Canada. The Department of the Solicitor General conducts a national survey every few years and other than the CISA Public Opinion Survey on Organized Crime no others specifically relate to organized crime in the province of Alberta. Those that have explored the topic from a national perspective have shown that the public's conception of what constitutes organized crime does not necessarily correspond to reality. The goal of the Provincial Public Opinion Survey is to provide the CISA Bureau, its' Executive, Alberta Justice and Alberta Solicitor General with benchmark measures on the public's perception on the extent and severity of organized and serious crime in the province of Alberta.



2. Methodology

The data collection component of the survey was contracted out to Research Innovations Inc., while the report-writing phase of the survey remained within the CISA Bureau.

The survey was conducted in three distinct phases:

1. Orientation, Questionnaire Design and Sampling
2. Telephone Interviews
3. Analysis and Reporting

To ensure that the survey continued to be a process that allowed for longitudinal tracking of key pieces of information, the basic design of the 2004 survey followed previous national and provincial surveys on organized crime in terms of both the types of questions and the collection methods. This ensured that the information presented remains reliable and statistically valid as well as allowing for comparison to national results.

Phase 1: Orientation, Questionnaire Design and Sampling

An attempt was made to follow as closely as possible, the wording of questions used on previous national and provincial surveys. Adjustments to the survey instrument were sensitive to benchmarking as well as time specific data needs. Research Innovations Inc. conducted pre-tests on the survey instrument to assess interview length, ensure flow patterns and to identify any difficulties in question wording or comprehension, or areas of respondent resistance. Any adjustments to the wording of the survey instrument were made through a consultative process between Research Innovations and the CISA Research Analyst Coordinator. A final copy of the questionnaire is provided in the Appendix.

Research Innovations completed a total of 1,200 telephone interviews with Alberta citizens 18 years of age or over. Province-wide results provide a margin of error no greater than $\pm 2.9\%$ in 19 out of 20 samples (the 95% confidence level). Individual regional results provide the following margins of error:

Calgary 371 interviews $\pm 5.1\%$
Edmonton 285 interviews $\pm 5.8\%$
Smaller Cities North 121 interviews $\pm 8.6\%$
Smaller Cities South 90 interviews $\pm 10.3\%$
Rural North 193 interviews $\pm 7.1\%$
Rural South 140 interviews $\pm 8.3\%$



Individual regions within the province were coded and the data were weighted to allow for comparisons and analysis.

The sampling involved randomly dialed phone numbers from the most recent residential phone listings within Alberta. Quotas were established to ensure equal proportions of male and female respondents. To randomly select the respondent at the household level, and to ensure that only those who live in the household are interviewed, the adult who lived in a particular household who was having the next birthday was selected for interviewing. To maximize the representation of the sample, a maximum of ten call back attempts were made to each telephone number chosen prior to excluding it from the sample.

Phase 2: Telephone Interviews

The telephone interviews were conducted at Research Innovations' call centre in Edmonton, Alberta, from July 6, 2004 to July 28, 2004 by trained and experienced telephone interviewing personnel. To ensure quality and consistency, 10% of all interviews were silently monitored in progress. The supervisor silently listened to the interviews while they were being conducted and checked responses as the interviewer was recording them. The on-line monitoring was made possible by programming the questionnaire into the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) System. The CATI system allows for simultaneous data collection and data entry. It additionally allows the interviewer to directly enter verbatim responses to open-ended questions.

Phase 3: Analysis and Reporting

The remainder of this document will focus on the results of the 2004 Public Opinion Survey.

3. Survey Findings

3.1 Demographics

Basic demographic data was collected for the survey in order to ensure that the sample of respondents mirrors the population as a whole. A comparison of the demographic data is one measure used to assess the validity of the sample.



Table 1: Survey Demographics

| Demographics | Province – Census 01 | Survey Sample |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Population 18 yrs + | 2,222,810 | 1,200 |
| <u>Gender</u> | | |
| Male | 50% | 49% |
| Female | 50% | 51% |
| <u>Marital Status</u> | | |
| Single | 47% | 27% |
| Married/Common-Law | 41% | 59% |
| Divorced/Separated | 8% | 8% |
| Widowed | 4% | 6% |
| <u>Age Groupings</u> | | |
| 20-29 | 19% | 21% |
| 30-39 | 21% | 21% |
| 40-49 | 22% | 23% |
| 50-59 | 15% | 17% |
| 60+ | 19% | 18% |

3.2 Perception of Organized Crime

One question on the survey was designed to explore the public's perception of what types of crimes constitute "organized crime". Respondents were provided a list of 26 criminal activities that organized criminals have been known to engage in. For each option, respondents were asked to identify, in their opinion, whether the criminal activity was "definitely an example of an organized crime", "possibly an example of an organized crime" or "definitely not an example of an organized crime".

Table 2 summarizes the public's responses over the last two surveys. The results indicate that to the public, organized crime is most frequently associated with and involved in drug related activities – namely trafficking and importing. This result is mirrored in other national surveys asking this type of question.



Table 2: Offences as an Example of Organized Crime

| Offence Type | “Definitely OC” | “Definitely OC” | “Possibly OC” | “Possibly OC” | “Definitely Not OC” | “Definitely Not OC” |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 |
| Drug importing, exporting or trafficking | 85% | 84% | 13% | 14% | 2% | 2% |
| Running an illegal gambling operation | 74% | 70% | 20% | 25% | 5% | 4% |
| Bringing illegal immigrants into Canada | 64% | 65% | 28% | 28% | 7% | 6% |
| Firearms Smuggling | 67% | 69% | 27% | 25% | 4% | 4% |
| Counterfeiting documents or money | 72% | 70% | 24% | 26% | 4% | 4% |
| Putting illegal cash into legal bank accounts | 67% | 70% | 25% | 24% | 6% | 5% |
| Street-level drug trafficking | 56% | 57% | 35% | 32% | 8% | 11% |
| Cigarette and liquor smuggling | 59% | 57% | 32% | 34% | 8% | 8% |
| Prostitution | 54% | 50% | 34% | 39% | 10% | 10% |
| Extortion | 53% | 52% | 35% | 37% | 7% | 7% |
| Trade in Endangered Species | 44% | 44% | 34% | 34% | 18% | 17% |
| Credit card fraud or ATM fraud | 53% | 49% | 36% | 39% | 11% | 11% |
| Sexual exploitation of children | 53% | 50% | 33% | 35% | 13% | 12% |
| Terrorism | n/a | 76% | n/a | 14% | n/a | 9% |
| Adult Pornography | 42% | 36% | 36% | 41% | 20% | 20% |
| Car theft | 40% | 40% | 46% | 44% | 14% | 15% |
| Anti-government activism | 25% | 25% | 37% | 36% | 32% | 31% |
| Internet fraud | 37% | 37% | 42% | 44% | 16% | 14% |



| Offence Type | “Definitely OC” | “Definitely OC” | “Possibly OC” | “Possibly OC” | “Definitely Not OC” | “Definitely Not OC” |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 |
| Illegally disposing of hazardous waste | 30% | 26% | 37% | 38% | 30% | 33% |
| Intimidation | 29% | 32% | 44% | 42% | 24% | 21% |
| Homicide | 31% | 30% | 50% | 49% | 18% | 20% |
| Armed robbery | 28% | 30% | 45% | 43% | 27% | 26% |
| Cheating on the stock market | 32% | 28% | 42% | 43% | 22% | 24% |
| Residential break, enter, & theft | 20% | 23% | 41% | 40% | 39% | 36% |
| Marihuana grow operations | n/a | 46% | n/a | 40% | n/a | 13% |
| Methampheta mine labs or Meth labs | n/a | 58% | n/a | 32% | n/a | 6% |

Prostitution and running an illegal gambling operation were still seen as definite examples of organized crime but by a smaller percentage of individuals than in 2003.

It is interesting to note that the crimes most often associated with white collar or corporate crimes (credit card fraud, internet fraud, cheating on the stock market, illegally disposing of dangerous waste) were less likely to be identified as definite examples of organized crime.

Other criminal activities that were least likely to be seen as examples of organized crime include homicide, armed robbery, marihuana grow operations, break enter and theft, and intimidation.

3.3 Public Perception of the Seriousness of Various Organized Criminal Activities

Respondents were also asked to rate the seriousness of each of the illegal activities identified in the previous question using a 10 point scale of crime seriousness, where a “10” is the most serious rating and a “1” is the least serious. While running an illegal gambling operation was ranked 3rd as an example of organized crime, it is perceived to be one of the least serious criminal activities identified. Similarly, while anti-government activism was ranked as one of the lowest examples of organized crime activity, it ranked number two in terms of serious types of crime.



The results are very similar to previous national survey results whereby drug related activities ranked more serious than such activities as cigarette and liquor smuggling, or cheating on the stock exchange.

Table 3: Seriousness of Criminal Activity

| | 2003 Mean | 2004 Mean |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Extortion | 12.36 | 11.59 |
| Anti-government activism | 10.43 | 10.96 |
| Intimidation | 10.44 | 10.65 |
| Methamphetamine Labs | N/A | 10.61 |
| Terrorism | N/A | 9.99 |
| Internet fraud | 10.73 | 9.98 |
| Sexual exploitation of children | 10.02 | 9.70 |
| Homicide | 9.81 | 9.52 |
| Trade in endangered species | 9.33 | 9.46 |
| Firearms smuggling | 8.74 | 9.09 |
| Illegally disposing of dangerous waste | 9.41 | 8.80 |
| Drug importing, exporting or trafficking | 9.22 | 8.77 |
| Armed robbery, including home invasions | 9.02 | 8.65 |
| Street-level drug trafficking | 8.69 | 8.52 |
| Putting illegal cash into legal bank accounts | 8.62 | 8.51 |
| Cheating on the stock market | 8.86 | 8.46 |
| Credit card fraud | 8.38 | 8.34 |
| Counterfeiting documents or money | 8.57 | 8.32 |
| Bringing illegal immigrants into Canada | 8.71 | 8.06 |
| Adult Pornography | 8.40 | 7.91 |
| Residential break, enter & theft | 8.08 | 7.76 |
| Prostitution | 8.57 | 7.67 |
| Car theft | 7.28 | 7.42 |
| Running an illegal gambling operation | 7.47 | 7.36 |
| Marihuana Grow Operations | N/A | 7.23 |
| Cigarette and liquor smuggling | 6.83 | 6.24 |

When the perceived level of seriousness is addressed by geographic region of respondent, it becomes evident that the top three issues are relatively consistent throughout the province. Variations that do exist are most likely a product of local experiences and geographical peculiarities.

Table 4: Top Ten Ranked Serious Offences by Region

| | Calgary | Edmonton | Small Cities - North | Small Cities - South | Rural North | Rural South |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Sexual Exploitation of Children | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Terrorism | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Homicide | 3 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| Armed Robbery | 4 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| Methamphetamine Labs | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Drug Importing | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 |



| | Calgary | Edmonton | Small Cities – North | Small Cities – South | Rural North | Rural South |
|--|---------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Counterfeiting documents | 7 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 |
| Street-level drug trafficking | 8 | - | 6 | 6 | 8 | 6 |
| Illegally Disposing of Hazardous Waste | 9 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Firearms Smuggling | - | 8 | 10 | - | - | 8 |
| Residential B&E | 10 | 10 | | 10 | 9 | |
| Credit card & ATM fraud | - | 7 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 9 |

Table 5 demonstrates the average score of respondents by region. Of the types of offences surveyed, the seriousness of the offence by region has been captured and colour coded. The majority of all the types of offences surveyed are perceived more serious in southern rural Alberta. The colour coding attached to the table is provided to identify the regional variations of seriousness. Red scores denote the highest mean (most serious) and blue scores denote the lowest mean (less serious).

Table 5: Mean Degree of Seriousness of Offences by Region

| Offence Type | Calgary | Edmonton | Small Cities – North | Small Cities – South | Rural North | Rural South |
|--|---------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Sexual exploitation of children | 9.72 | 9.35 | 9.44 | 9.66 | 9.54 | 10.82 |
| Homicide | 9.16 | 9.06 | 9.77 | 9.31 | 9.40 | 11.43 |
| Drug importing and exporting | 8.39 | 8.40 | 8.65 | 8.64 | 9.68 | 9.48 |
| Armed robbery, including home invasions | 8.63 | 8.34 | 8.52 | 8.51 | 8.27 | 10.08 |
| Street-level drug trafficking | 7.92 | 8.44 | 9.04 | 8.28 | 8.61 | 9.82 |
| Illegally disposing of dangerous waste | 8.72 | 8.59 | 9.21 | 8.57 | 8.78 | 9.24 |
| Firearms smuggling | 9.35 | 8.52 | 8.71 | 7.56 | 10.13 | 9.47 |
| Extortion | 11.41 | 11.18 | 11.76 | 11.79 | 11.67 | 12.51 |
| Residential break, enter and theft | 7.58 | 7.52 | 7.51 | 8.88 | 7.65 | 8.38 |
| Bringing illegal immigrants into Canada: | 7.32 | 7.79 | 7.93 | 8.58 | 9.53 | 8.39 |



| Offence Type | Calgary | Edmonton | Small Cities – North | Small Cities – South | Rural North | Rural South |
|---|---------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Trade in endangered species | 9.05 | 8.41 | 9.90 | 9.82 | 9.39 | 12.11 |
| Terrorism | 9.56 | 9.37 | 9.17 | 13.54 | 10.18 | 10.65 |
| Counterfeiting documents or money | 8.05 | 7.66 | 7.88 | 7.67 | 9.29 | 9.93 |
| Adult Pornography | 7.65 | 8.02 | 6.71 | 8.22 | 7.96 | 9.22 |
| Credit card fraud | 7.99 | 7.86 | 7.98 | 8.76 | 8.64 | 9.92 |
| Prostitution | 7.33 | 7.13 | 7.67 | 7.69 | 8.74 | 8.23 |
| Putting illegal cash into legal bank accounts | 7.78 | 7.78 | 8.95 | 7.40 | 9.47 | 10.99 |
| Intimidation | 11.72 | 9.80 | 11.29 | 10.66 | 9.87 | 9.99 |
| Internet fraud | 9.54 | 9.69 | 7.26 | 10.32 | 10.90 | 12.81 |
| Car theft | 7.03 | 7.39 | 7.02 | 7.04 | 8.24 | 8.04 |
| Cheating on the stock market | 7.39 | 8.61 | 6.66 | 8.68 | 10.89 | 9.25 |
| Running an illegal gambling operation | 6.21 | 7.86 | 7.18 | 7.37 | 7.84 | 8.96 |
| Anti-government activism | 10.17 | 10.34 | 12.97 | 9.94 | 11.07 | 12.94 |
| Cigarette and liquor smuggling | 5.78 | 5.98 | 6.23 | 6.28 | 6.85 | 7.19 |
| Marihuana Grow Operations | 7.05 | 6.33 | 6.53 | 6.78 | 8.16 | 9.24 |
| Methamphetamine labs or meth labs | 10.12 | 11.23 | 8.83 | 9.63 | 10.34 | 13.35 |

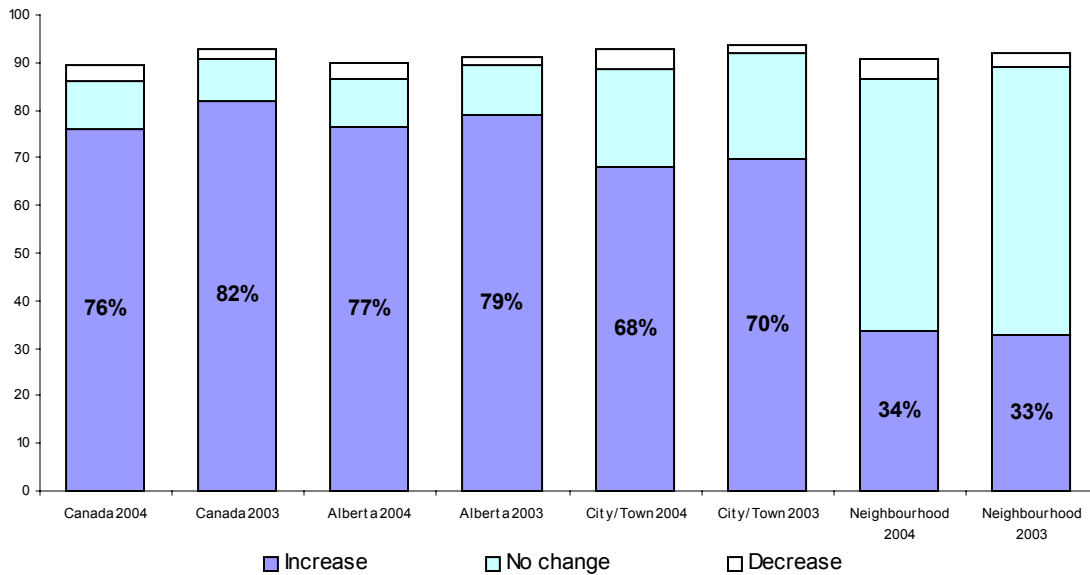
3.4 Perception of Changes in the Incidence of Organized Crime

Respondents were asked about the degree of change in organized crime in recent years. This question was asked in relation to four geographic parameters. On the national and provincial level, the majority of respondents see a decrease in the amount of organized crime in recent years (76% and 77% respectively). As the question shifts to the city (68%) level, the number of respondents who believe there to be an increase in organized crime diminishes. There has been a one percent increase in the neighbourhood (34%) level during the previous year.

In general, the closer to “home” the question of organized crime activity comes, the higher the probability that people see “no change” in organized crime activity. This finding very much supports the idea that people believe that organized crime is something that does not impact them personally.



Graph 1: Perceived Change in Organized Crime



As shown in Graph 1, there is a significant decrease between the results of the 2003 survey and this years result in the overall perception of Albertans as to the relative increase in organized crime occurring nationally. There is a negligible decrease as to the relative increase in organized crime occurring provincially. There was a slight decrease in the overall perception of Albertans as to the relative increase in organized crime occurring within their city of residence and a minor increase in their neighbourhoods.



Table 6: Perceived Change in Organized Crime by Region

| Region of Response | Change | Organized Crime in Canada | | Organized Crime in Alberta | | Organized Crime in Your City or Town | | Organized Crime in Your Neighbourhood | |
|------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|------|
| | | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| Calgary | Increase | 74% | 86% | 73% | 83% | 71% | 82% | 32% | 35% |
| | No Change | 11% | 11% | 13% | 14% | 15% | 15% | 52% | 61% |
| | Decrease | 4% | 3% | 4% | 2% | 5% | 3% | 5% | 4% |
| Edmonton | Increase | 79% | 87% | 78% | 87% | 79% | 87% | 39% | 45% |
| | No Change | 10% | 10% | 10% | 11% | 12% | 13% | 47% | 52% |
| | Decrease | 2% | 4% | 3% | 2% | 3% | 0% | 5% | 3% |
| Smaller Cities - North | Increase | 76% | 86% | 79% | 87% | 66% | 73% | 38% | 32% |
| | No Change | 5% | 11% | 5% | 12% | 17% | 24% | 48% | 66% |
| | Decrease | 2% | 3% | 2% | 2% | 5% | 4% | 3% | 3% |
| Smaller Cities - South | Increase | 78% | 94% | 77% | 95% | 69% | 78% | 33% | 43% |
| | No Change | 10% | 1% | 12% | 4% | 23% | 20% | 58% | 54% |
| | Decrease | 4% | 5% | 2% | 1% | 3% | 1% | 3% | 3% |
| Rural North | Increase | 80% | 91% | 82% | 87% | 59% | 56% | 32% | 32% |
| | No Change | 9% | 9% | 7% | 12% | 31% | 42% | 55% | 67% |
| | Decrease | 2% | 1% | 3% | 1% | 4% | 1% | 4% | 1% |
| Rural South | Increase | 69% | 91% | 74% | 87% | 51% | 52% | 25% | 25% |
| | No Change | 17% | 8% | 12% | 10% | 40% | 46% | 67% | 72% |
| | Decrease | 2% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 4% | 2% | 2% | 3% |

For both the 2003 and 2004 surveys, there has been a significant difference in the perceived level of increase in organized crime seen at the city and neighbourhood level between Calgary and Edmonton. The consistently higher scores in Edmonton are most likely due to the increased level of violence in the city over the past four years. Respondents from smaller cities north, smaller cities south, rural north and rural south believed there to be a larger increase in organized crime in Alberta than the other regions. Calgary and Edmonton believe there to be a larger increase in organized crime in their cities than the other regions.



3.5 Identification of Specific Groups

For the 2004 Survey, respondents were asked to identify which specific organized crime groups were active in Alberta as well as in Canada.

These results indicate that from the public's point of view there is not much variation between organized crime groups in the province as compared to the rest of the country.

Table 7: Specific Organized Crime Groups Active in Alberta

| | Frequency Of Mentions | Percent |
|---|--------------------------|---------|
| Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs | 479 | 39.9 |
| Asian-based Organized Crime | 371 | 31.0 |
| Street Gangs | 157 | 13.2 |
| Aboriginal Gangs | 111 | 9.4 |
| Italian Mafia (Traditional Organized Crime) | 55 | 4.6 |
| Eastern European Organized Crime Groups | 50 | 4.2 |
| Drug Trafficking/Drugs | 47 | 4.0 |
| Ethnic Groups | 21 | 1.4 |
| East Indian | 10 | 0.9 |
| Jamaican Organized Crime | 10 | 0.9 |
| White Supremacists | 9 | 0.8 |
| Russian Mafia | 9 | 0.8 |
| Government/Politicians | 8 | 0.7 |
| Gangs (unspecified) | 8 | 0.7 |
| Prostitution | 7 | 0.6 |
| Auto Theft/Car Thieves | 7 | 0.7 |
| Marihuana Grow Operations | 7 | 0.7 |
| (None) | 24 | 2.0 |
| (Don't Know/Not Stated) | 343 | 28.6 |
| Total | 1733 | 150.1 |

Due to multiple responses there are more than 1,200 mentions in both Table 7 and 8.

Table 8: Specific Organized Crime Groups Active in Canada

| | Frequency Of Mentions | Percent |
|---|--------------------------|---------|
| Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs | 498 | 28.5 |
| Asian-based Organized Crime | 341 | 19.5 |
| Italian Mafia (Traditional Organized Crime) | 111 | 6.1 |
| Street Gangs | 107 | 6.1 |
| Aboriginal Gangs | 93 | 5.3 |
| Eastern European Organized Crime Groups | 71 | 4.1 |
| Drug Trafficking/Drugs | 29 | 1.7 |
| Government/Politicians | 20 | 1.1 |
| Ethnic Groups | 20 | 1.1 |
| Russian Mafia | 15 | 0.9 |

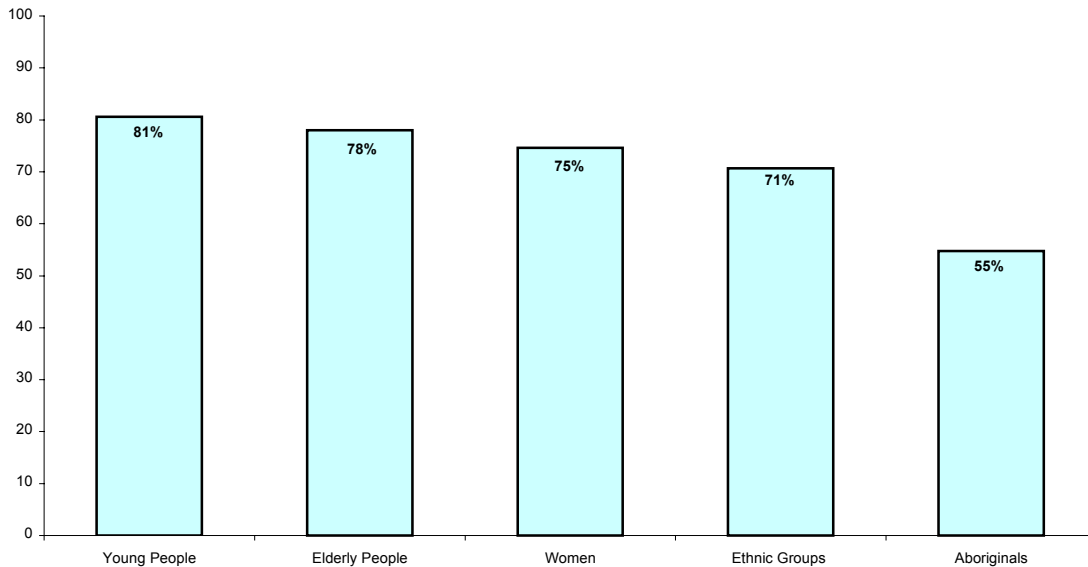


| | Frequency Of Mentions | Percent |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Terrorism (unspecified) | 14 | 0.8 |
| Jamaican Organized Crime | 11 | 0.6 |
| East Indian | 11 | 0.6 |
| International Terrorists | 10 | 0.6 |
| Financial Organized Crime | 8 | 0.5 |
| (None) | 26 | 1.5 |
| (Don't Know/Not Stated) | 360 | 20.6 |
| Total | 1745 | 100.0 |

3.6 Perceptions of Particular Groups Victimized

Respondents were told that some groups of individuals are victimized more than others by organized crime and were asked to state whether they thought certain groups were particularly vulnerable. Respondents were asked about young people under the age of 18, elderly people, Native Canadians, women, and members of ethnic groups. As illustrated in Graph 3, the young and the elderly were identified as the most vulnerable to being victimized by organized crime.

Graph 3: Groups Particular Vulnerable to Being Victimized by Organized Crime



Other groups believed to be particularly vulnerable include: low-income individuals and people with disabilities.

3.7 Responding to Organized Crime

Respondents were asked their opinion concerning the degree to which they believe their local police agency is effectively reducing the level of organized crime.



Table 9: Local Police Agency Effectively Dealing With Organized Crime

| | | Calgary | Edmonton | Smaller Cities North | Smaller Cities South | Rural North | Rural South | Total |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| Total Agreement | 2004 | 81% | 71% | 71% | 66% | 67% | 68% | 73% |
| | 2003 | 73% | 69% | 67% | 69% | 65% | 70% | 70% |
| Neither Agree Or Disagree | 2004 | 6% | 9% | 6% | 6% | 10% | 5% | 7% |
| | 2003 | 10% | 11% | 10% | 8% | 10% | 12% | 11% |
| Total Disagreement | 2004 | 11% | 18% | 19% | 20% | 22% | 23% | 18% |
| | 2003 | 15% | 18% | 21% | 22% | 23% | 16% | 18% |

In general, 73% of respondents believe that their local police agency deals effectively with organized crime. The residents of the smaller southern cities followed by the rural south have had the greatest decrease in confidence. Calgary has the highest confidence rating from all five regions.

The southern rural areas in the province have the least amount of confidence in their local police agency to effectively deal with organized crime.

Calgary continues to have more confidence in their local police agency than Edmonton to deal with organized crime issues.

Confidence in the local police agency effectively dealing with organized crime has risen slightly over the past three years in Edmonton even though the city has been hit with drug and gang related violence.

It is interesting to note that when compared to the 2003 Alberta Justice/Solicitor General survey results on the question of confidence with the justice system in Alberta, the results indicate that 79% of Albertans had confidence in the justice system.

3.8 Effective Actions to Reduce Organized Crime

For comparative purposes many of the same list of options were presented to respondents on this survey as they were to the respondents of the 2003 Alberta Solicitor General/Alberta Justice Survey. This comparison should further differentiate the public's opinion between general crime and organized crime.

When we compare responses, it is evident that respondents do not view social or rehabilitation programs to be as effective when applied to organized crime as when applied to crime in general. Alternatively, respondents felt that incarcerating more offenders; tougher sentences and passing more legislation would be more effective against organized crime than to crime in general.



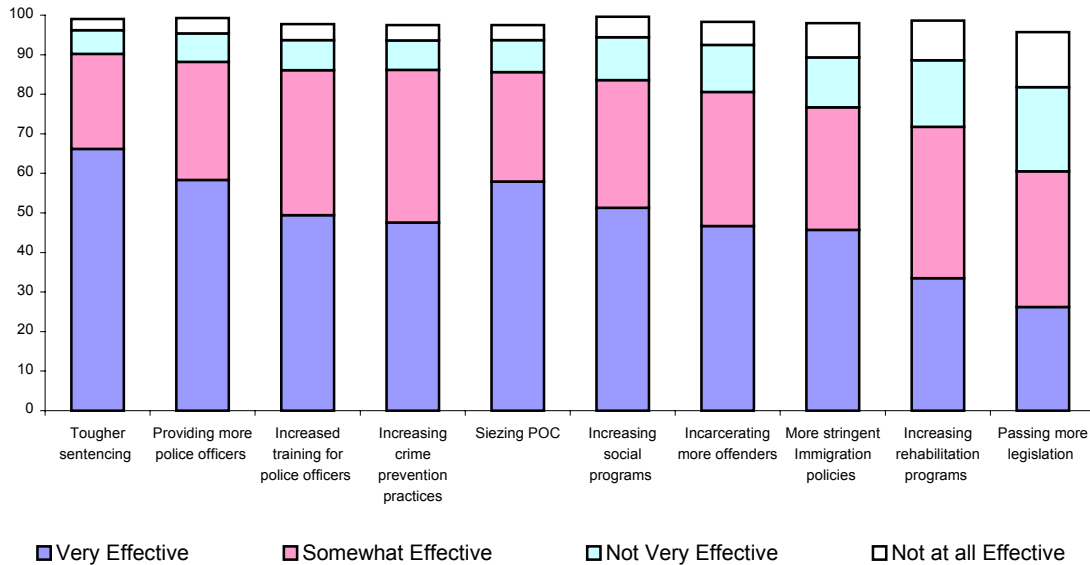
Table 10: Effective Actions to Reduce Organized Crime

| Action | OC Survey Results | | Alberta Solicitor General and Justice 2003 Results | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--|---------------|
| | Effective | Not Effective | Effective | Not Effective |
| Increasing crime prevention practices | 86.2% | 11.3% | 90% | 6% |
| Providing more police officers | 88.2% | 11.1% | 89% | 10% |
| Increase training for police officers | 86.1% | 11.6% | N/A | N/A |
| Incarcerating more offenders | 80.6% | 17.7% | 72% | 24% |
| Tougher sentences | 90.2% | 8.8% | 85% | 12% |
| Increasing rehabilitation programs | 71.8% | 26.8% | 79% | 17% |
| More stringent Immigration policies | 76.7% | 21.3% | N/A | N/A |
| Passing more legislations | 60.5% | 35.2% | 56% | 38% |
| Increasing more social programs | 83.6% | 16.0% | 89% | 10% |
| Seizing proceeds of crime | 85.6% | 11.9% | N/A | N/A |



Graph 4 ranks the various actions in terms of overall perceived effectiveness.

Graph 4: Effective Actions to Reduce Organized Crime



4.0 Conclusions

As the fifth provincial survey on organized and serious crime, these findings will assist CISA, as well as individual police agencies, in gauging public perception about and support for organized crime related initiatives.

The results tend to suggest that while Albertans differentiate certain organized crime activities from serious crime activities, people primarily associate importing and trafficking of drugs to organized crime. This may be more a reaction to cultural and media stereotypes than by hard information. Getting the media to focus on presenting accurate crime information rather than entertaining the public would further assist the public in understanding the far-reaching effects of organized crime in their neighbourhoods.

The public believes that organized crime is decreasing at the national, provincial and municipal levels. Respondents indicated a nominal increase (1%) in the amount of organized crime at the neighbourhood level.

The perceived abilities of police agencies to effectively deal with organized crime is influenced, in part, on the media reports of incidents and the public’s interpretation of them.

Respondents believed that getting the courts to give out tougher sentences, getting more police officers on the streets and increasing crime



prevention practices were the most effective ways to deal with organized crime. The passing of more legislation was seen as the least effective strategy.

While “Organized Crime” is seen to have increased significantly over the years, both in terms of media reporting on crime and political attention, the term is generally not well understood and its impact is not appreciated. This distortion could quite conceivably give organized crime groups an advantage.



1. I am going to read you a list of crimes. Please tell me whether you think each crime is: definitely an example of an organized crime, possibly an example of an organized crime, or definitely not an example of an organized crime. Is **(READ ITEMS RANDOMLY)** an example of organized crime?

- A. Cigarette and liquor smuggling
- B. Drug importing, exporting, or trafficking in drugs
- C. Street-level drug trafficking, including in bars, in schools, or dial-a-doper)
- D. Running an illegal gambling operation
- E. Cheating on the stock market
- F. Putting illegal cash into legal bank accounts, a form of money laundering
- G. Bringing illegal immigrants into Canada
- H. Illegally disposing of dangerous waste
- I. Car theft
- J. High level drug trafficking
- K. Credit card fraud or ATM fraud
- L Internet Fraud
- M. Prostitution
- N. Extortion
- O. Intimidation
- P. Adult Pornography
- Q. Counterfeiting documents or money
- R. Sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, coercion into the sex trade, and child pornography
- S. Armed robbery, including home invasions
- T. Homicide
- U. Firearms smuggling
- V. Trade in endangered species
- W. Terrorism
- X. Anti-government activism
- Y. Marihuana grow operations
- Z. Methamphetamine labs, or meth labs



2. Now I would like you to tell me how serious you would rank each of these crimes whether or not you listed them as organized crime in the previous question, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 means the most serious crime (MSC), and 1 means the least serious crime (LSC). Using a scale like this, what score would you give to:
- 3.
- A. Cigarette and liquor smuggling
 - B. Drug importing, exporting, or trafficking in drugs
 - C. Street-level drug trafficking, including in bars, in schools, or dial-a-dopers)
 - D. Running an illegal gambling operation
 - E. Cheating on the stock market
 - F. Putting illegal cash into legal bank accounts, a form of money laundering
 - G. Bringing illegal immigrants into Canada
 - H. Illegally disposing of dangerous waste
 - I. Car theft
 - J. Credit card fraud or ATM fraud
 - K. Internet fraud
 - L. Prostitution
 - M. Extortion
 - N. Intimidation
 - O. Adult Pornography
 - P. Counterfeiting documents or money
 - Q. Sexual exploitation of children, including child pornography, coercion into the sex trade, and child pornography
 - R. Residential break, enter and theft
 - S. Armed robbery, including home invasions
 - T. Homicide
 - U. Firearms smuggling
 - V. Trade in endangered species
 - W. Terrorism
 - X. Anti-government activism
 - Y. Marihuana grow operations
 - Z. Methamphetamine labs, or meth labs
3. Over the past few years, has there been a large increase, a small increase, no change, a small decrease or a large decrease in the amount of organized crime in:
- A. Canada
 - B. Alberta
 - C. In your city or town
 - D. In your neighbourhood?



4. In your opinion, what specific organized crime groups are active in:
1. Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs
 2. Aboriginal Gangs
 3. Italian Mafia (Traditional Organized Crime)
 4. Eastern European Organized Crime Groups
 5. Asian-based Organized Crime
 6. Jamaican Organized Crime
 7. Street Gangs
 8. Other (Please Specify)
 9. None
 10. Don't Know/Not Stated
- A. Alberta?
B. Canada?
5. Some groups of individuals are victimized more than others by organized crime. In your opinion, which of the following groups are particularly vulnerable to being victimized by organized crime?
- a. Young people under 18 years old
 - b. Elderly people
 - c. Aboriginals
 - d. Women
 - e. Members of ethnic groups
 - f. Are any other groups particularly vulnerable to being victimized by organized crime?
6. How effective do you believe the following actions will be in reducing the level of organized crime in Alberta? Will ____ be very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective or not at all effective?
- A. Increasing crime prevention practices
 - B. Providing more police officers
 - C. Increased training for police officers
 - D. Incarcerating more offenders
 - E. Tougher sentencing
 - F. Increasing rehabilitation programs
 - G. More stringent Immigration policies
 - H. Passing more legislation
 - I. Increasing social programs such as education, job training, drug treatment, recreation, and job creation
 - J. Seizing the proceeds of crime



7. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: You have a lot of confidence in your local police agency to effectively deal with organized crime?

The last few questions will help us group the information as part of our statistical analysis. Again, all the information you provide will be kept completely anonymous.

8. What is your current employment status?

1. Full-time outside of home
2. Part time outside the home
3. Self-employed from home
4. A Homemaker
5. Retired
6. A Student
7. Disabled and unable to work
8. Or Unemployed
9. (Refused)

9. What is your highest level of education?

1. Some grade or high school
2. Graduated from high school
3. Some technical school or college education
4. Graduated from technical school or college
5. Some university
6. Or Graduated from university
9. (Refused)

10. What is your current marital status?

- 1 Single and never married
- 2 Married, or living common-law
3. Widowed
4. Divorced or Separated
9. (Refused)

12. What is the total annual income before taxes, of all persons living in your household?

- 1 Under \$10,000
- 2 \$10,000 to less than \$15,000
- 3 \$15,000 to less than \$20,000
- 4 \$20,000 to less than \$30,000
- 5 \$30,000 to less than \$40,000
- 6 \$40,000 to less than \$50,000



- 7 \$50,000 to less than \$60,000
- 8 \$60,000 to less than \$70,000
- 9 \$70,000 to less than \$80,000
- 10 \$80,000 and over
11. (Don't Know)
12. (Refused)

That's all the questions I have. Thank you very much for participating!

