



# National Crime Prevention Council

Research and Evaluation Department

Research Brief – December 17, 2007

## Voter Perception of Crime

---

**Sample:** Global Strategy Group conducted a telephone survey of 800 registered voters nationwide with oversamples of 100 African American and 100 Latino voters.

### Key Findings:

- 94% of voters believe that crime is a serious problem in America.
- 88% believe that they are more likely to be killed by crime than a terrorist attack.
- Of those included in the study, 64% believe crime has increased in America in the past year, including 32% who believe there is a lot more crime than one year ago.
- 81% say reducing crime is the most or a very important issue for the President and Congress to address.
- 74% agree elected officials are not talking enough about preventing crime.
- 72% believe that school crime has increased and 70% believe that juvenile crime has increased in the past year.
- Voters endorse an array of measures for reducing crime, including having more police on the streets (24%), violence prevention programs for youth (18%), and job training for people in prison and on parole (16%).
- 64% believe that the country is on the wrong track.
- 33% of voters believe that drugs and alcohol are most responsible for problems with crime today. 17% believe that it is related to poverty.

### Possible Outcomes:

- Potentially, through this report, Congress and the President could be made aware of voter opinion regarding crime and criminal activity.
- An increase in resources could potentially lead to more crime prevention programming, specifically programming that focuses on juvenile crime and school violence.

**Source:** John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York,  
<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/1116.php>