



Choices for Youth

2002 VOTERS SURVEY FACT SHEET

Youth Violence Prevention

The survey finds that youth violence is a significant concern among California's voters. Awareness of the issue is high, and most voters consider it to be a major problem statewide. The effects of youth violence are seen as lingering for years to come, by hurting the education and training of California's future workforce. Voters show strong, bipartisan support for youth violence prevention programs, with solid majorities favoring expanding programs and increasing state funding. Most voters see youth violence prevention as an investment that will pay off in the future.

VIOLENCE AGAINST YOUTH IS A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM IN CALIFORNIA.

- Homicide is the leading cause of death in California for youth ages 15 to 19.
- Youth ages 12 to 17 are nearly three times more likely than adults to be victims of serious violent crimes.
- In a single year in California, nearly 6,000 young people are hospitalized for some form of violent injury including assault, child abuse, domestic violence and rape.

Date Source: 1998 Hospitalized Injury Surveillance System, California Department of Health Services; America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics (1999).

KEY FINDINGS

This survey shows that California voters think;

- Youth violence is a *big* problem in California today;
- It is easy for youth in their local area to get a gun;
- Youth violence is hurting the quality of education in California;
- The State should increase funding for youth violence prevention; and
- Expanding after-school and crime prevention programs would save the state money in the long run by reducing the need for prisons.

METHODOLOGY

This fact sheet describes the results of a statewide telephone survey of 1000 registered California voters conducted by Baldassare Associates for Choices for Youth, April 10-17, 2002. The margin of sampling error for the total sample is +/-3 percent. The sample was generated by the random-digit-dial method, with a screen for registered voters. The interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. 24% of the sample is from Los Angeles county, 27% from other Southern California counties, 18% from the San Francisco Bay Area, 20% from Central Valley counties, and 11% from Other California counties.

THE GOAL

THE GOAL OF CHOICES FOR YOUTH IS TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST YOUTH.

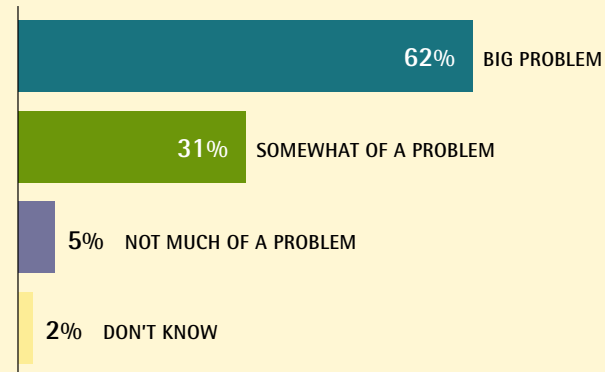
To receive a copy of the complete polling report or more information, please visit the Choices for Youth website at www.preventviolence.org or contact us at P.O. Box 423445 San Francisco, CA 94142-3445, PH: 415-625-1331.

CHOICES FOR YOUTH: A Public Education Campaign to Prevent Violence Against Youth is funded by a grant to i.e. communications, LLC from The California Wellness Foundation.

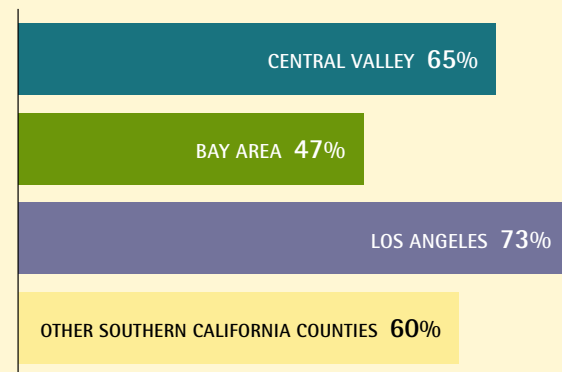
HIGHLIGHTS

Nearly two in three (62%) voters think youth violence is a big problem in California today. Latinos are considerably more likely than non-Hispanic whites to say violence involving youth is a big problem in their local areas and schools, as well as the state as a whole. In addition, voters in Los Angeles and the Central Valley report bigger problems with youth violence in their communities than do those in the Bay Area and the rest of the state.

WOULD YOU SAY THAT VIOLENCE INVOLVING YOUTH IS A BIG PROBLEM, SOMEWHAT OF A PROBLEM OR NOT MUCH OF A PROBLEM IN CALIFORNIA TODAY?

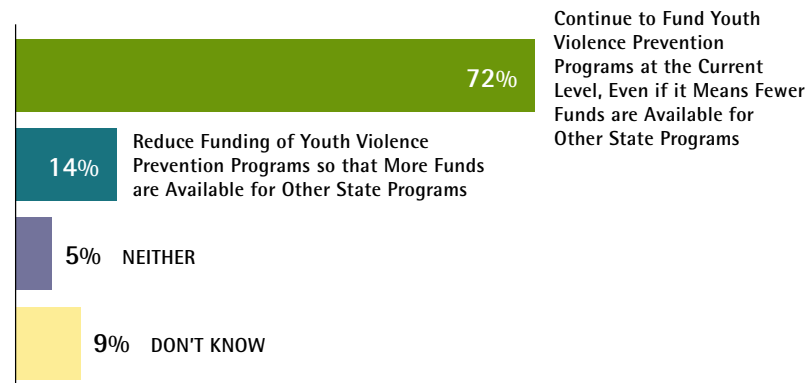


PERCENT SAYING "BIG PROBLEM" IN CALIFORNIA:



Despite the state's budget crisis, nearly three in four voters (72%) think youth violence prevention programs should continue to be funded at the current level. Fewer than one in five think the funding should be reduced.

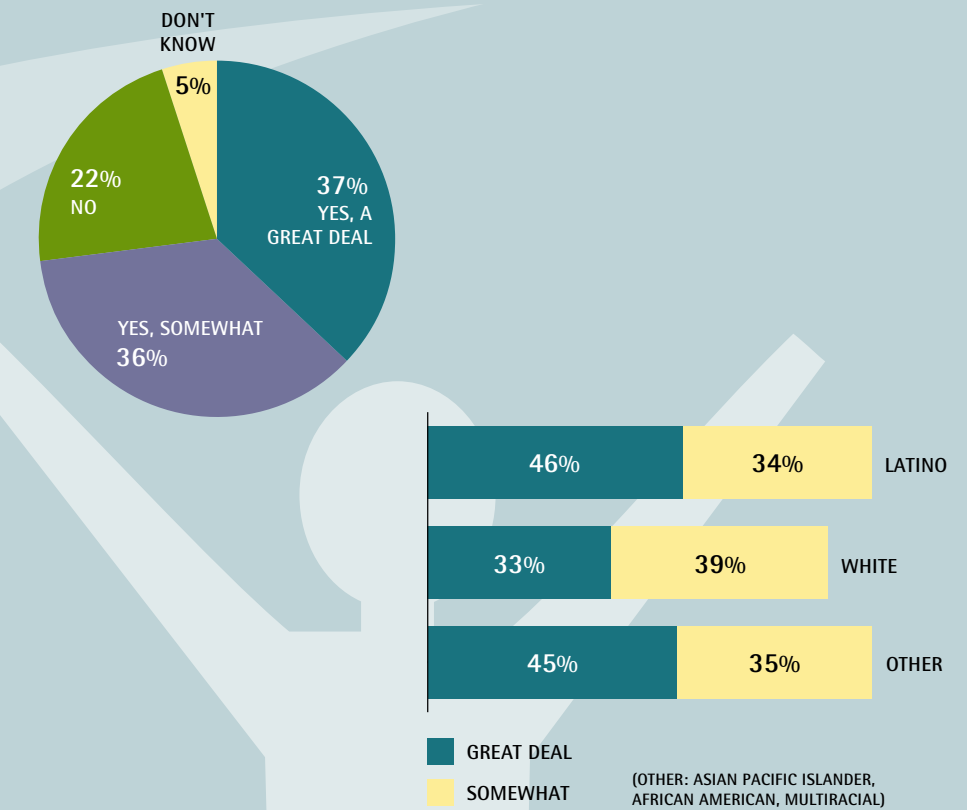
AS YOU MAY KNOW, CALIFORNIA IS CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING A BUDGET CRISIS AND COULD BE FACING A DEFICIT OF 12 BILLION DOLLARS OR MORE. GIVEN THE NEED TO MAKE SOME FINANCIAL SACRIFICES IN ORDER TO BALANCE THE STATE BUDGET, WHAT SHOULD THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR DO AS THEY EVALUATE PRIORITIES FOR SPENDING STATE FUNDS THIS YEAR? SHOULD THEY...



In addition to threatening the safety and well-being of California's young people today, youth violence is seen as having long-term effects on the economy by hindering the education and job-training of the state's future workforce.

A stunning three in four (73%) think youth violence is hurting the quality of education in California. The effects of youth violence are perceived as especially extreme among Latinos and other ethnic minorities, of whom nearly half say it is hurting the quality of education a great deal.

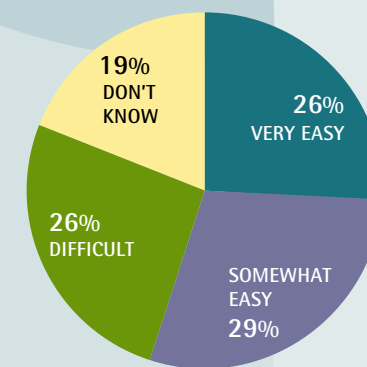
DO YOU THINK THAT YOUTH VIOLENCE IS HURTING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA? (IF YES: IS THAT A GREAT DEAL, OR SOMEWHAT?)



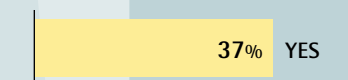
The perception that young people have ample access to firearms is widespread among California's voters. More than half of California voters (55%) think it is easy for youth in their local area to get a gun, with more than a quarter saying it is very easy. Only one in four think it is somewhat or "very" difficult.

A sobering number of Californians say they personally know a youth who has been the victim of violence. Statewide, nearly four in 10 (37%) say they are personally acquainted with a youth victim. This experience differs starkly along racial lines. Nearly half of Latinos (46%) say they personally know a youth violence victim, compared to one in three of all other ethnicities.

HOW EASY DO YOU THINK IT IS FOR YOUTH IN YOUR CITY OR COMMUNITY TO GET A GUN?



DO YOU PERSONALLY KNOW A YOUTH WHO HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF VIOLENCE?

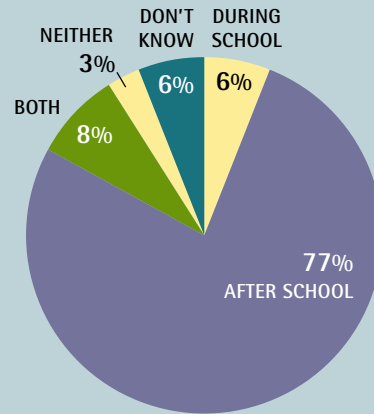


AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Voters show solid support for after-school programs.

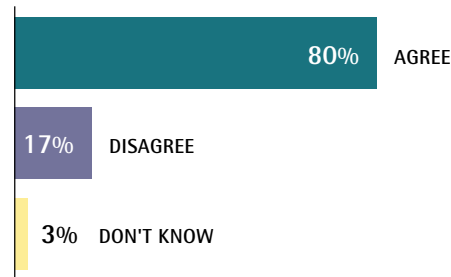
Youth are seen as much more in danger outside of school hours than during school.

DO YOU THINK YOUTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE DURING SCHOOL, OR AFTER SCHOOL?



Eight in 10 voters believe that expanding after-school and crime prevention programs would save the state money in the long run by reducing the need for prisons. A sizeable majority in all political parties holds this view.

PLEASE TELL ME WHETHER YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: EXPANDING AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND OTHER CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS WOULD SAVE MONEY IN THE LONG RUN BY REDUCING THE NEED FOR PRISONS.



A large majority (63%) strongly favors expanding the state's after-school program funding to include high school students. A majority in all parties approves.

CURRENTLY, THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROVIDES FUNDS FOR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS IN ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS, BUT DOES NOT FUND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. DO YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE EXPANDING THE STATE'S AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM FUNDING TO INCLUDE HIGH SCHOOLS?

