Justice System

January 2018

Introduction text:

Today, we would like to ask you about a few issues affecting Canada today. The first concerns your experience with crime and safety in your community.

Justice System

QJ1. [T] Over the past five years or so, would you say there has been an increase, decrease, or no change in the amount of crime in your community?

Increase
No change
Decrease
Not sure/Can’t say

QJ2. [T] In the past two years, have you yourself been a victim of crime which involved the police, such as an assault, a break-in or some other type of crime?

Yes
No

QJ3. [T] How much confidence do you have in each of these elements of the Canadian justice system?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]
The RCMP
Your provincial police force [ONTARIO AND QC ONLY]
Your local municipal police (or local RCMP detachment)
Criminal courts in your province
The Supreme Court of Canada

[COLUMNS]
A complete lack of confidence
Not a lot of confidence
A lot of confidence
Complete confidence
Not sure/Can’t say

QJ4. [T] Thinking about the courts and the justice system in this country, all things considered, do you think the justice system is too harsh in dealing with people who have broken the law, is it too soft on them or does the justice system strike the right balance overall?

Too harsh
Strikes the right balance overall
Too soft
Not sure/Can’t say
QJ5. Here are some of the reasons often cited for sending people to prison. In your opinion, which of these is the *primary* purpose of prison? Is it:

[RANDOMIZE]
To protect the public from dangerous criminals
To punish people who break the law
To discourage people from committing crimes
To rehabilitate criminals so they can re-enter society

[ANCHOR] Other: [Specify] _______

QJ6. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding the criminal justice system in your province?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]
Criminal courts do a good job in determining whether or not an accused person is guilty
The justice system treats every person fairly
Judges do a good job handing out punishments and sentences to people who commit crimes
The justice system has enough resources to efficiently process cases
The prison system does a good job of helping prisoners become law abiding citizens

[COLUMNS]
Disagree strongly
Disagree moderately
Agree moderately
Agree strongly
Not sure/Can’t say