

A person wearing a dark hoodie and gloves is shown in the process of breaking into a car at night. The person is crouched by the driver's side window, using a tool to pry open the door. The background shows a residential street with houses and a street lamp, all under a blue-tinted night sky. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the scene, centered on the person and the car.

Crime in Canada

May 2026 Media Release

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Methodology

Field Window March 30 to April 8, 2026

Sampling

Online survey of at least 3,032 Canadian adults (18+). Respondents were recruited from the Canview online research panels.

Reliability*

Online surveys cannot be assigned a margin of error. As a guideline, a probability sample of this size carries a margin of error of $\pm 1.8\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Weighting

Data has been weighted based on gender and age within regions, so as to be representative of the population of adult Canadians.

REGION	Number of Interviews (unweighted)	Margin of error*
Atlantic Canada	507	$\pm 4.4\%$
Quebec	606	$\pm 4.0\%$
Ontario	708	$\pm 3.7\%$
Manitoba/ Saskatchewan	403	$\pm 4.9\%$
Alberta	353	$\pm 5.2\%$
British Columbia	455	$\pm 4.6\%$
Canada	3,032	$\pm 1.8\%$



67%

of Canadians are concerned
about crime in their community

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Key Findings

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- Canadians in all parts of the country worry about crime, but the specific crimes they worry about are varied.
 - Nationally, concern is highest about break-ins/burglaries, but Quebecers are most worried about violent crime and fraud/scams, while British Columbians are most worried about drug trafficking/drug addiction and public disorder related to drug use.
- Two-in-three (67%) Canadians have seen or been a victim of at least one crime over the past year, with theft the type most directly experienced (23%).
- Three-in-ten (29%) Canadians feel unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. This figure rises to 35% in BC and 41% among women 18-to-34.
- Canadians feel the most effective crime reduction policies are tougher criminal penalties and sentencing, tougher rules around bail, and increasing police presence in high-crime areas.

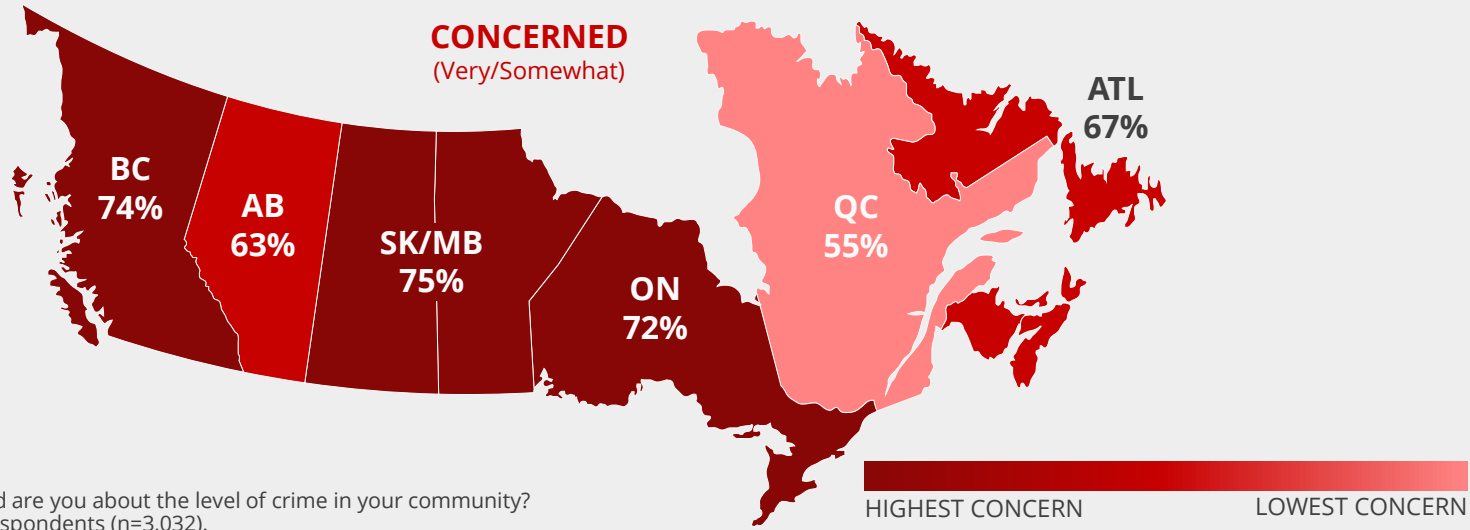
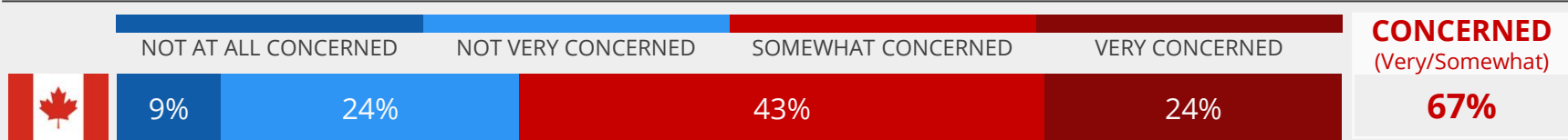


Survey Findings

Concern About Crime:

Two-thirds of Canadians at least somewhat concerned

Level of Concern About Crime in Your Community—Canada and Regions

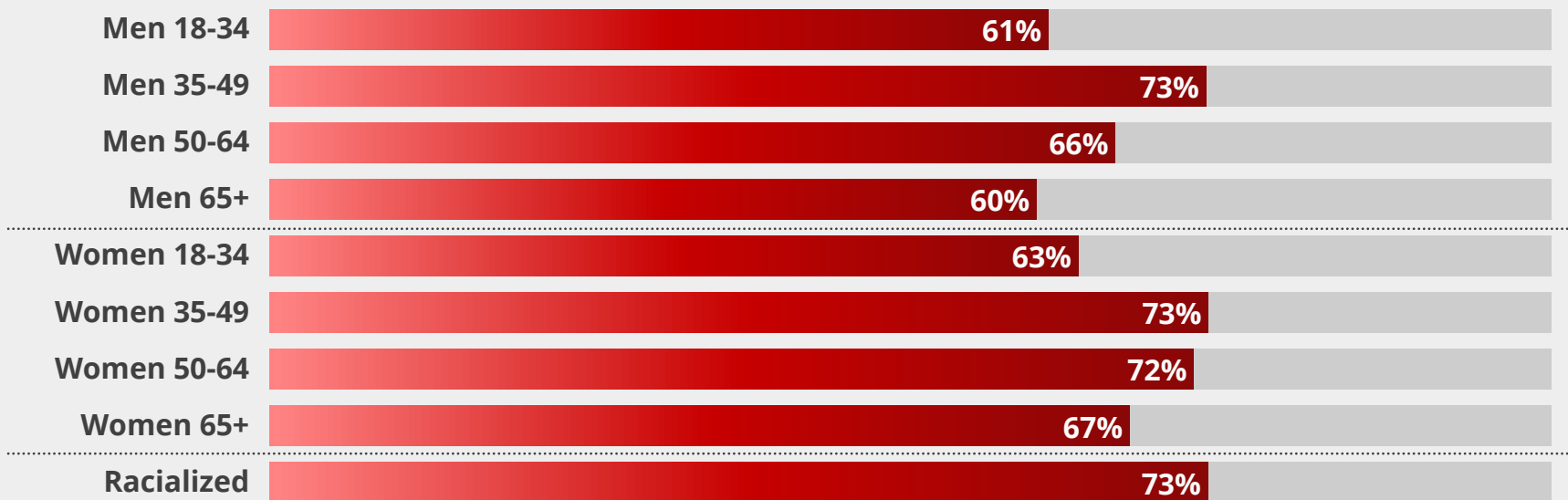


Q C1. How concerned are you about the level of crime in your community?
Base: Total – All Respondents (n=3,032).

Concerns About Crime – by Demographic Groups

- Conservative (75% concerned) and Liberal (69% concerned) voters are more concerned about crime than Bloc (59% concerned) and NDP (56% concerned) voters.

Level of Concern About Crime in Your Community—Generation and Racialized



Q C1. How concerned are you about the level of crime in your community?
Base: Total – All Respondents (n=3,032).

Types of Crime Canadians Worry About Most:

Break-ins are top concern, especially among older Canadians

- There are not many partisan differences in the types of crime Canadians worry about, but Liberal voters are more likely than Conservative voters to rank hate crimes (15% vs. 10%) and domestic violence (18% vs. 9%) as a type of crime they are most concerned about.

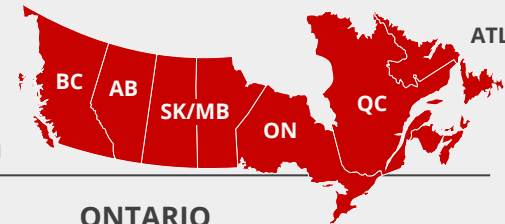
Types of Crime of Greatest Concern in Your Community—Overall and By Generation and Racialized

	TOTAL	MEN				WOMEN				RACIALIZED
		18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	
Break-ins / Burglaries	34%	19%	36%	38%	41%	23%	30%	37%	45%	31%
Drug trafficking / Drug dealing	27%	22%	18%	25%	41%	25%	23%	28%	34%	19%
Violent crime (e.g., assault, homicide, kidnapping)	26%	28%	34%	26%	20%	35%	24%	24%	23%	29%
Fraud / Scams	25%	22%	22%	33%	34%	16%	22%	25%	27%	24%
Gun violence / Shootings	24%	25%	21%	22%	19%	27%	28%	26%	24%	29%
Theft / Shoplifting	22%	19%	24%	27%	26%	21%	25%	17%	21%	23%
Public disorder related to drug use or addiction	21%	20%	17%	23%	19%	22%	27%	19%	20%	18%
Vandalism / Property damage	18%	14%	16%	17%	30%	14%	12%	20%	26%	12%
Gang violence	16%	17%	20%	19%	14%	17%	14%	16%	16%	15%
Carjackings / Car theft	14%	10%	15%	16%	9%	11%	21%	17%	13%	18%
Domestic violence	14%	15%	8%	13%	12%	16%	17%	16%	16%	13%
Hate crimes	13%	14%	15%	5%	15%	17%	10%	14%	11%	17%

Q C2. What types of crime are you most worried about in your community? [RESPONDENTS CAN SELECT UP TO 3 ITEMS FROM LIST]
 Base: VERY/SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT CRIME IN C1 (n=2,040).

Types of Crime Canadians Worry About Most – by Region

- Quebecers are about twice as likely as other Canadians to cite gang violence (27%) and domestic violence (26%) as top crime concerns (vs. 14% and 11%, respectively, in other provinces).
- Ontarians are about three times as likely as other Canadians to cite car jackings (23%) as a top crime concern (vs. 8% in other provinces).



Types of Crime of Greatest Concern in Your Community—Top 3 in Each Region

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Drug trafficking / Drug dealing **33%**

Public disorder related to drug use or addiction **33%**

Break-ins / Burglaries **29%**

ALBERTA

Break-ins / Burglaries **34%**

Drug trafficking / Drug dealing **31%**

Violent crime (e.g., assault, homicide, kidnapping) **27%**

SASKATCHEWAN / MANITOBA

Break-ins / Burglaries **37%**

Theft / Shoplifting **33%**

Drug trafficking / Drug dealing **33%**

ONTARIO

Break-ins / Burglaries **40%**

Gun violence / Shootings **28%**

Drug trafficking / Drug dealing **26%**

QUEBEC

Violent crime (e.g., assault, homicide, kidnapping) **32%**

Fraud / Scams **30%**

Gang violence **27%**

ATLANTIC

Break-ins / Burglaries **39%**

Drug trafficking / Drug dealing **35%**

Public disorder related to drug use or addiction **28%**



Q C2. What types of crime are you most worried about in your community? [RESPONDENTS CAN SELECT UP TO 3 ITEMS FROM LIST]
Base: VERY/SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT CRIME IN C1 (n=2,040).

Experiences With Crime: Two-in-three (67%) have seen or experienced at least one crime over past year

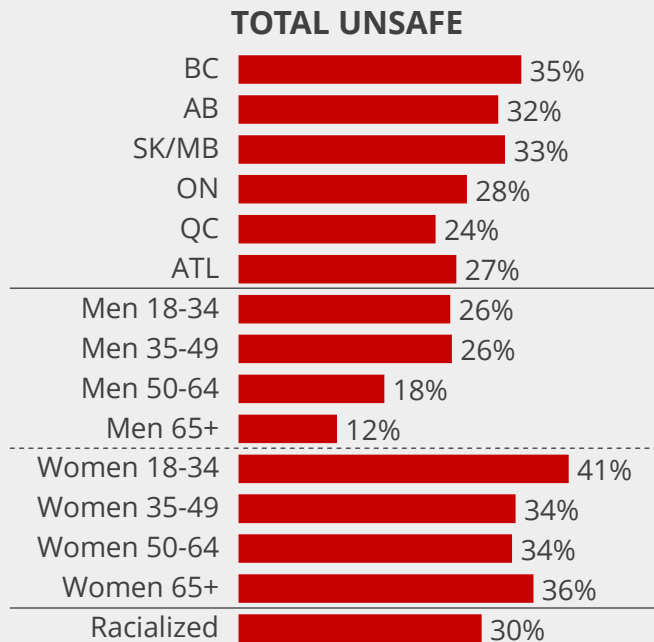
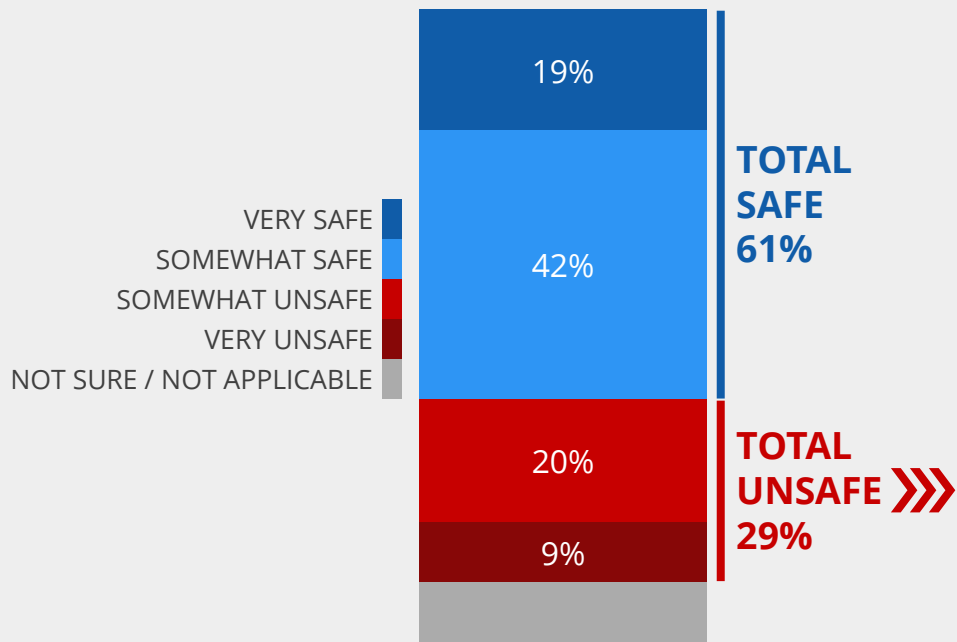
Types of Crime Personally Seen or Experienced in Your Community in the Past Year

	TOTAL	REGION					
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL
Theft / Shoplifting	23%	29%	23%	34%	22%	17%	24%
Fraud / Scams	21%	23%	26%	19%	20%	19%	20%
Public disorder related to drug use or addiction	21%	31%	25%	24%	17%	16%	21%
Vandalism / Property damage	20%	25%	23%	28%	19%	16%	25%
Break-ins / Burglaries	19%	21%	21%	21%	20%	13%	25%
Drug trafficking / Drug dealing	17%	24%	21%	21%	15%	13%	24%
Domestic violence	12%	10%	15%	9%	10%	17%	12%
Carjackings / Car theft	11%	6%	11%	9%	15%	7%	13%
Violent crime (e.g., assault, homicide, kidnapping)	11%	9%	9%	11%	11%	11%	15%
Gun violence / Shootings	10%	11%	8%	9%	12%	9%	10%
Hate crimes	10%	10%	11%	8%	10%	8%	10%
Gang violence	7%	9%	6%	10%	5%	11%	5%
None	24%	19%	22%	22%	24%	29%	23%
Not sure	9%	8%	8%	9%	10%	9%	6%

Q C3. In the past year, which of the following types of crime have you personally seen or experienced in your community? Select all that apply.
Base: Total – All Respondents (n=3,032).

Neighbourhood Safety: Three-in-ten (29%) Canadians feel unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark

Perceived Safety When Walking Alone in Your Neighbourhood After Dark

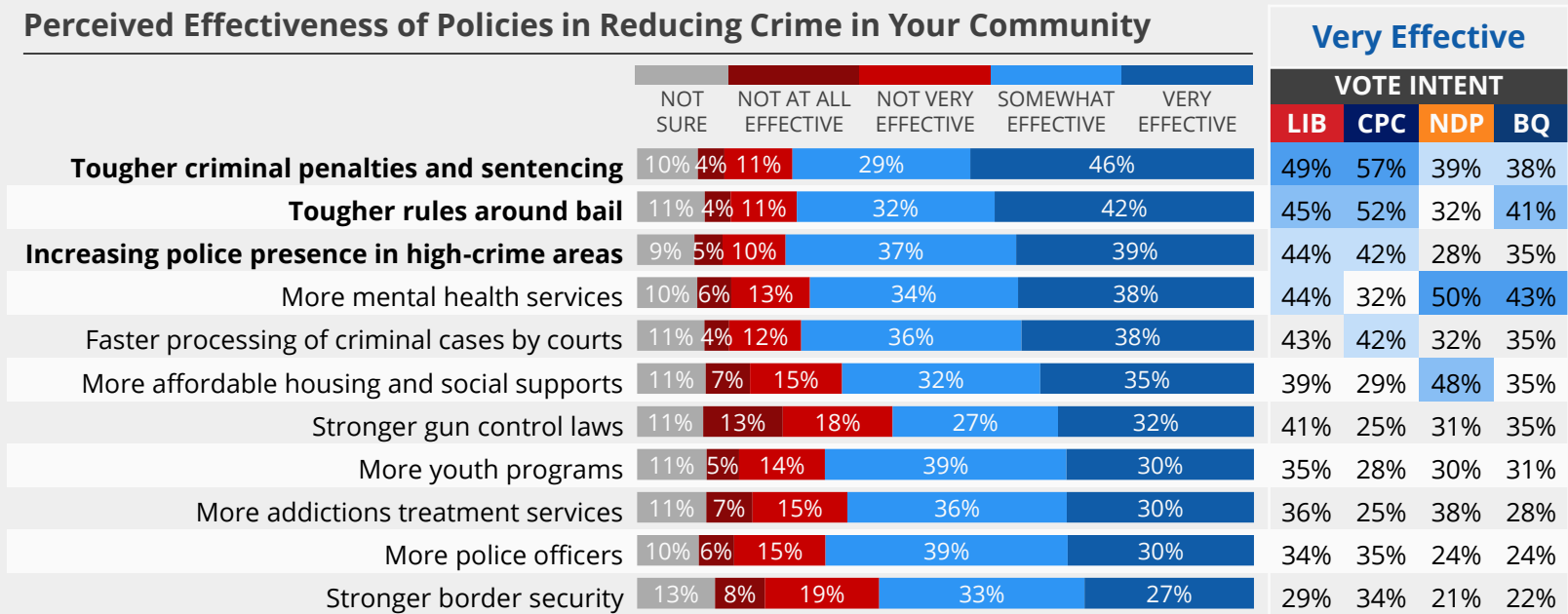


Q C4. How safe do you feel walking alone in your neighbourhood after dark?
Base: Total - All Respondents (n=3,032).

Possible Solutions: All policies seen as at least somewhat effective, with tougher sentencing and bail viewed as most effective solutions

- The largest gender gap in perspective comes on mental health services (women: 45% very effective / men: 31% very effective) and addictions treatment services (women: 35% / men: 24%).

Perceived Effectiveness of Policies in Reducing Crime in Your Community



Q C5. How effective do you believe each of the following policies would be at reducing crime in your community?
Base: Total – All Respondents (n=3,032).

Crime in Canada

For media inquiries, contact:
[Dan Arnold](#)

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