



## GUN CONTROL

# **HANDGUN BAN COULD CUT GUN VIOLENCE, SAY CANADIANS**

**76% say gun violence is a serious problem in Canada;  
55% think gangs are an issue only in certain areas**

**52% say a complete ban on all handguns is justified;  
55% think the ban will effectively curb gun violence**

**High enthusiasm for mandatory jail time for gun crimes,  
action on gun smuggling from U.S, & outreach programs  
to keep youth out of gangs**

**More than 60% would ratify Bill C-10 & Bill C-35,  
the gun crime bills going through the Senate**

*From August 21 to 23, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,067 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 3.0 %, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

[VANCOUVER – Sep. 4, 2007] – Canadians say gun violence is a serious national problem, and think banning handguns outright may cut its impact, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 76 per cent of respondents consider gun violence to be a serious problem in Canada. And while over half (52%) think a complete ban on handguns is justified, 55 per cent also say it will effectively cut gun violence in Canada.

But other anti-violence measures rate even higher. A whopping 87 per cent think instituting mandatory jail time for crimes committed with guns is an effective deterrent, and 82 per cent think the same about taking action to stop gun smuggling from the U.S. As well, 73 per cent predict introducing new outreach programs to steer youth away from gangs will be successful in reducing gun violence.

Most Canadians also stand firmly behind the gun crime bills that are presently waiting for Senate ratification to become law. Seventy-three per cent think the Senate should ratify Bill C-10, which seeks to increase mandatory minimum jail sentences for gun crimes—in some cases to five years for a first offence. Another 65 per cent want the Senate to ratify Bill C-35, which calls for suspects charged with gun crimes to demonstrate to the court why they should be granted bail.

And more than half of Canadians (55%) think gangs are an issue localized to certain areas and people, while 39 per cent think they are a serious nationwide problem. Only 2 per cent think Canada does not have a considerable gang crisis.

Across the country, many regions hold opposite opinions over whether banning handguns is justified. Those in BC, Ontario, and Quebec strongly believe a complete ban is warranted, while those in Alberta, Manitoba & Saskatchewan, and Atlantic Canada strongly disagree.

However, in an odd turn of opinion, most BC respondents do not think a ban will cut gun violence, while most Atlantic Canadians think it will be successful. The rest of the provinces are more consistent in their answers: those in Ontario and Quebec believe a complete handgun ban will effectively reduce gun violence, and those in Alberta, Manitoba & Saskatchewan think it will not.

As well, many regions see the country's gang problem from different angles. Alberta (53%) and Manitoba (64%) think it is a national issue, while the rest of the regions think it is an issue central to certain areas and people. Quebec also shows the least support for both gun bills making their way through Parliament.

Women are much more inclined to feel there is a gun violence problem in Canada, and are much more likely to support all gun-control measures and the related gun bills.

Canadians 55 and over are more likely to believe there is a serious gun problem in Canada. Those in households earning \$100,000 or more are more likely to believe a handgun ban is justified and will be effective at cutting gun violence, and highly support both bills being ratified by the Senate. They are also much more likely to think guns are an issue specific to certain locations and people rather than a nationwide problem.

Surprisingly, supporters of the Conservatives, Liberals, and NDP all hold very similar opinions about every question—except those on banning handguns. Conservative voters are much more likely to think a complete ban on handguns is unjustified and that such a ban will not effectively reduce gun violence, while Liberals and NDP voters strongly take the opposite view.

## 76% think gun violence is a serious problem in Canada

Q. Next we'd like to ask you some questions about gun violence. In your view, is gun violence in Canada a very serious problem, moderately serious, not too serious, or not a problem?

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Very serious	38%	24%	27%	32%	45%	41%	36%	33%	43%
Moderately serious	37%	43%	34%	44%	33%	43%	32%	33%	41%
Not too serious	17%	22%	22%	18%	17%	9%	24%	23%	11%
Not a problem	6%	8%	17%	6%	3%	4%	8%	10%	3%
Not sure	2%	4%	0%	0%	2%	2%	0%	1%	2%
Very/Mod serious	76%	67%	60%	76%	78%	84%	68%	66%	84%
Not too serious/ Not a problem	23%	30%	39%	24%	20%	14%	32%	33%	14%

	Age				Household Income			Vote in next federal election		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	Con	Lib	NDP
Very serious	38%	27%	39%	49%	42%	36%	33%	36%	37%	43%
Moderately serious	37%	42%	35%	36%	34%	39%	46%	37%	42%	36%
Not too serious	17%	19%	20%	10%	16%	17%	16%	18%	15%	17%
Not a problem	6%	9%	6%	4%	6%	7%	6%	9%	6%	4%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Very/Mod serious	76%	69%	74%	86%	76%	75%	78%	73%	79%	78%
Not too serious/ Not a problem	23%	28%	26%	13%	22%	24%	22%	27%	21%	21%

Gun violence survey

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## 52% think a complete ban on handguns in Canada is justified

Q. Some people have called for a complete ban on handguns in Canada.  
Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view?

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
A complete ban would be justified, since current regulations are not working and guns stolen from legal owners are being used in crimes.	52%	51%	36%	31%	56%	63%	37%	47%	56%
A complete ban would be unjustified, as it would affect law-abiding Canadians such as collectors and target shooters.	40%	41%	57%	64%	37%	25%	57%	46%	34%
Not sure	8%	8%	7%	5%	7%	12%	6%	7%	9%

	Age			Household Income			Vote in next federal election			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	Con	Lib	NDP
A complete ban would be justified, since current regulations are not working and guns stolen from legal owners are being used in crimes.	52%	57%	46%	55%	50%	50%	59%	36%	58%	58%
A complete ban would be unjustified, as it would affect law-abiding Canadians such as collectors and target shooters.	40%	35%	43%	40%	42%	42%	36%	58%	35%	37%
Not sure	8%	8%	11%	5%	8%	8%	5%	6%	7%	5%

## 55% think banning handguns will effectively reduce gun violence in Canada

Q. How effective do you think each of the following measures would be in reducing gun violence in Canada?  
- Enacting a complete ban on handguns

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Very effective	27%	23%	11%	21%	26%	42%	14%	25%	29%
Moderately effective	28%	25%	26%	17%	29%	27%	41%	25%	31%
Not too effective	19%	27%	14%	15%	20%	21%	8%	19%	20%
Not effective at all	25%	23%	48%	45%	24%	8%	35%	30%	19%
Not sure	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
<b>Total Effective</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Total Not effective</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>40%</b>

	Age				Household Income			Vote in next federal election		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	Con	Lib	NDP
Very effective	27%	28%	23%	30%	29%	27%	25%	18%	31%	31%
Moderately effective	28%	30%	27%	28%	24%	28%	35%	23%	33%	25%
Not too effective	19%	21%	21%	16%	23%	18%	16%	18%	20%	21%
Not effective at all	25%	20%	28%	25%	22%	26%	24%	40%	15%	22%
Not sure	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
<b>Total Effective</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>Total Not effective</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>43%</b>

## 87% think imposing mandatory jail terms for crimes committed with firearms will effectively reduce gun violence in Canada

Q. How effective do you think each of the following measures would be in reducing gun violence in Canada?  
- Imposing mandatory jail terms for crimes committed with firearms

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Very effective	55%	53%	61%	63%	55%	51%	59%	50%	61%
Moderately effective	32%	38%	28%	24%	30%	36%	31%	35%	30%
Not too effective	9%	6%	5%	7%	11%	8%	8%	11%	7%
Not effective at all	3%	2%	5%	4%	2%	3%	3%	4%	2%
Not sure	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
<b>Total Effective</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Total Not effective</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>9%</b>

	Total	Age			Household Income			Vote in next federal election		
		18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	Con	Lib	NDP
Very effective	55%	55%	54%	58%	60%	55%	55%	57%	57%	50%
Moderately effective	32%	30%	33%	33%	30%	35%	28%	34%	30%	34%
Not too effective	9%	9%	10%	7%	8%	7%	11%	7%	8%	15%
Not effective at all	3%	4%	3%	2%	1%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%
Not sure	1%	3%	0%	0%	1%	0%	3%	0%	2%	0%
<b>Total Effective</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>83%</b>
<b>Total Not effective</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>17%</b>

## 73% think introducing new outreach programs to steer youth away from gangs will effectively reduce gun violence in Canada

Q. How effective do you think each of the following measures would be in reducing gun violence in Canada?  
- Introducing new outreach programs to steer youth away from gangs

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Very effective	36%	28%	23%	40%	34%	46%	35%	31%	40%
Moderately effective	37%	38%	50%	31%	42%	27%	36%	36%	38%
Not too effective	19%	23%	17%	16%	19%	21%	13%	21%	17%
Not effective at all	6%	6%	10%	9%	5%	5%	12%	9%	3%
Not sure	2%	4%	1%	4%	1%	1%	4%	2%	2%
<b>Total Effective</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Total Not effective</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>21%</b>

	Total	Age			Household Income			Vote in next federal election		
		18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	Con	Lib	NDP
Very effective	36%	38%	33%	37%	41%	34%	32%	30%	42%	41%
Moderately effective	37%	34%	40%	36%	34%	39%	38%	42%	39%	33%
Not too effective	19%	19%	18%	20%	17%	20%	21%	18%	16%	18%
Not effective at all	6%	7%	7%	5%	7%	4%	9%	8%	2%	6%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%	3%	1%	3%
<b>Total Effective</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>Total Not effective</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>23%</b>

## 82% think taking action to stop illegal gun smuggling from the United States will effectively reduce gun violence in Canada

*Q. How effective do you think each of the following measures would be in reducing gun violence in Canada?  
- Taking action to stop illegal gun smuggling from the United States*

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Very effective	52%	44%	42%	48%	56%	57%	49%	46%	57%
Moderately effective	30%	39%	37%	24%	31%	27%	24%	30%	31%
Not too effective	11%	11%	7%	21%	8%	13%	14%	14%	8%
Not effective at all	5%	5%	14%	6%	5%	3%	8%	8%	3%
Not sure	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	5%	2%	1%
<b>Total Effective</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>Total Not effective</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>11%</b>

	Total	Age			Household Income			Vote in next federal election		
		18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	Con	Lib	NDP
Very effective	52%	49%	49%	59%	57%	49%	53%	49%	58%	55%
Moderately effective	30%	33%	32%	25%	24%	35%	30%	33%	29%	31%
Not too effective	11%	9%	12%	12%	9%	12%	13%	13%	9%	8%
Not effective at all	5%	7%	6%	3%	7%	3%	5%	5%	4%	6%
Not sure	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%
<b>Total Effective</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>Total Not effective</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>

### 73% think the Senate should ratify Bill C-10

Q. As you may know, Bill C-10, which seeks to increase mandatory minimum jail sentences for gun crimes (in some cases to five years for a first offence) has been approved by the House of Commons. Do you think the Senate should ratify Bill C-10?

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Yes	73%	76%	83%	78%	74%	66%	66%	77%	69%
No	12%	9%	5%	11%	10%	18%	16%	12%	13%
Not sure	15%	14%	12%	11%	15%	16%	19%	11%	19%

	Age			Household Income			Vote in next federal election			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	Con	Lib	NDP
Yes	73%	58%	75%	85%	69%	74%	85%	84%	72%	78%
No	12%	15%	13%	9%	13%	12%	9%	9%	16%	9%
Not sure	15%	27%	12%	6%	18%	15%	6%	7%	12%	14%

### 65% think the Senate should ratify Bill C-35

Q. As you may know, Bill C-35, which calls for suspects charged with gun crimes to demonstrate to the court why they should be granted bail, has been approved by the House of Commons. Do you think the Senate should ratify Bill C-35?

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Yes	65%	72%	63%	64%	72%	55%	61%	74%	57%
No	16%	10%	18%	16%	13%	18%	24%	15%	16%
Not sure	19%	18%	19%	20%	15%	27%	15%	11%	27%

	Age			Household Income			Vote in next federal election			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	Con	Lib	NDP
Yes	65%	50%	67%	78%	56%	68%	83%	71%	72%	72%
No	16%	16%	17%	13%	18%	16%	9%	16%	15%	15%
Not sure	19%	34%	16%	8%	26%	16%	8%	14%	13%	13%

## 55% think Canada's gang problem is confined to specific areas and people

Q. Which one of the following statements comes closest to your view?

	Region							Gender	
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Male	Female
Canada has a serious gang problem and it affects the whole country	39%	34%	53%	64%	34%	39%	27%	34%	43%
Canada's gang problem is confined to specific areas and people	55%	59%	38%	31%	60%	55%	70%	59%	52%
Canada does not have a serious gang problem	2%	1%	1%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%
Not sure	4%	6%	9%	1%	3%	4%	0%	4%	3%

	Age				Household Income			Vote in next federal election		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	Con	Lib	NDP
Canada has a serious gang problem and it affects the whole country	39%	33%	38%	46%	43%	40%	29%	38%	36%	38%
Canada's gang problem is confined to specific areas and people	55%	54%	57%	53%	50%	55%	67%	60%	61%	55%
Canada does not have a serious gang problem	2%	4%	2%	1%	4%	1%	3%	1%	1%	5%
Not sure	4%	9%	2%	0%	3%	4%	2%	1%	2%	2%

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*Angus Reid Strategies is a North American full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995. Located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal, our team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research.*

*Angus Reid Strategies polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.*

*Angus Reid Strategies has been successful in predicting the outcome of this year's provincial elections:*

*In Quebec: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=37>*

*In Manitoba: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=56>*

*More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at [http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF\\_WHITE\\_PAPER.pdf](http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF_WHITE_PAPER.pdf)*

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**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:  
[www.angusreidstrategies.com](http://www.angusreidstrategies.com)**