



Federal Government Crime Legislation







Lethbridge Public Opinion Study – Winter 2012

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Methodology

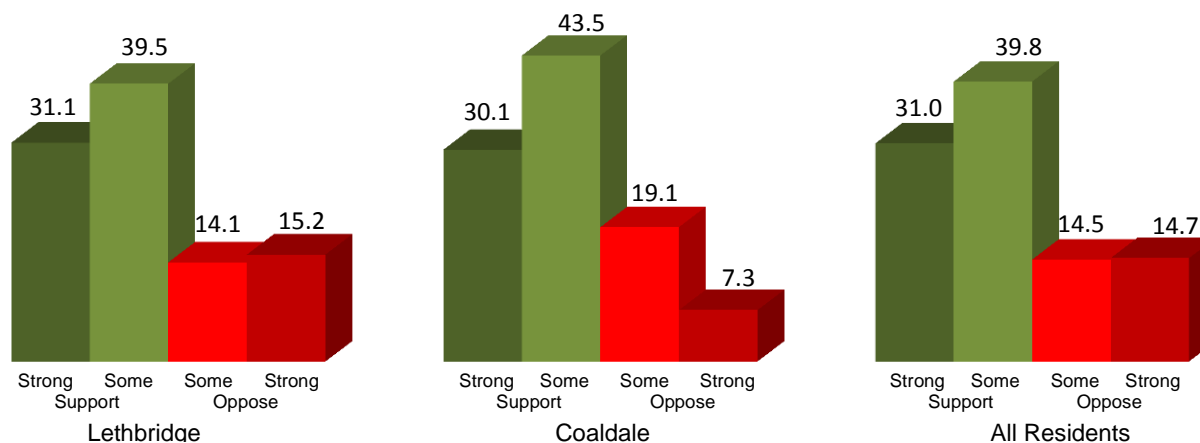
-  **Population** The city of Lethbridge has a total population of 87,882 residents (2011 census) approximately 80% of which are 18 years of age or older (70,305). A total of 43,011 Lethbridge residents are male (48.9%) while 44,871 are female (51.1%). South Lethbridge is home to 30,504 residents (34.7%) while the rapidly expanding west side is now home to 32,063 residents (36.5%). There are 25,315 north Lethbridge residents (28.8%). Coaldale has a total population of 6,943 residents (2009 census).
-  **Sample Data** Collected by Lethbridge College and Athabasca University students enrolled in STS270 – Social Science Research Methods in the winter of 2012. Students interviewed 738 randomly selected, adult Lethbridge and Coaldale residents by telephone on February 11–12, 2012 under the supervision of School of Liberal Arts faculty member Faron Ellis. Telephone numbers were selected from a sample drawn from InfoCanada directories. We sincerely appreciate and thank all those who took time to respond to our survey. Full methodological notes for samples from previous Lethbridge and Alberta Public Opinion Studies can be obtained by visiting the CSRL web pages at:
www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca/go/csrl
-  **Representativeness** Analysis of the demographic data indicates that, within acceptable limits, the sample accurately represents the demographic distribution of the adult population within the city of Lethbridge. The sample has been statistically weighted where necessary to even better reflect that of the population (gender, age and area of the city of Lethbridge).
-  **Confidence** The weighted sample yields a margin of error of ± 3.6 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases when analyzing sub-samples of the data. For example, the Lethbridge subsample margin of error is ± 3.9 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, while the Coaldale subsample has a margin of error of ± 9.5 percentage points 19 times out of 20.
-  **IB Commons Call Centre** Students conducted interviews using the facilities of the Lethbridge College IB Commons Call Centre and applications developed by the Open Source Learning Lab. We thank Dr. James Manis and the OSLL for their efforts in working with us to establish and maintain the IB Commons Call Centre.
-  **Sponsorship** These data are part of a larger study of the opinions and attitudes of Lethbridge residents conducted by the Citizen Society Research Lab at Lethbridge College. This particular question was derived from student and faculty interest in the topic.

Federal Government Crime Legislation (%)

- A substantial majority of Lethbridge and Coaldale residents (70.8%) support the federal government's approach to reducing crime as outlined in its omnibus crime bill. Coaldale residents (73.6%) are only slightly more supportive than are Lethbridge residents (70.6%).
- Women (77.3%) are more supportive than are men (64.6%) although men are still nearly twice as supportive as opposed.
- Support decreases as education increase with university grads (63%) less supportive than those with other education levels, particularly those with the least amount of education who demonstrate the highest support levels (80.8%).
- The youth (58.3%) are much less supportive than are other age groups.
- Support decreases as religious participation decreases with 77.0% of the most religious supportive, dropping to only 66.0% amongst those who rarely or never attend church.
- Not surprisingly, federal Conservative supporters (87.5%) are much more supportive than are Liberal (58.1%), NDP (46.6%) and Green (52.0%) partisans.

	Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents		Lethbridge	Coaldale	All Residents
Strongly support	31.1	30.1	31.0	Support	70.6	73.6	70.8
Somewhat support	39.5	43.5	39.8	Oppose	29.4	26.4	29.2
Somewhat oppose	14.1	19.1	14.5				
Strongly Oppose	15.2	7.3	14.7				

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%



Federal Crime Legislation (%) (2012)

Region	South	North	West	All Lethbridge	Coaldale
Support	68.0	73.9	70.5	70.6	73.6
Oppose	32.0	26.1	29.5	29.4	26.4

Gender*	Male	Female
Support	64.6	77.3
Oppose	35.4	22.7

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40-\$80,000	Over \$80,000
Support	65.0	68.3	70.3
Oppose	35.0	31.7	29.7

Education*	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Support	80.8	71.6	74.1	63.0
Oppose	19.2	28.4	25.9	37.0

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Support	58.3	78.4	72.4	72.7
Oppose	41.7	21.6	27.6	27.3

Religious Participation*	1-3 per month/more	Several per year	Rarely/never
Support	77.0	72.4	66.0
Oppose	23.0	27.6	34.0

Federal Vote Intention*	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Support	87.5	58.1	46.6	52.0	77.3
Oppose	12.5	41.9	53.4	48.0	22.7

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; * sig < 0.05

Federal Crime Legislation (%) (2012)

Region	South	North	West	All Lethbridge	Coaldale
Strongly support	28.2	34.5	30.7	31.1	30.1
Somewhat support	39.8	39.4	39.6	39.5	43.5
Somewhat oppose	14.1	16.4	12.9	14.1	19.1
Strongly oppose	18.0	9.7	16.9	15.2	7.3

Gender*	Male	Female
Strongly support	32.5	29.4
Somewhat support	31.9	47.9
Somewhat oppose	16.6	12.5
Strongly oppose	19.0	10.2

Household Income	Under \$40,000	\$40-\$80,000	Over \$80,000
Strongly support	30.0	30.4	31.2
Somewhat support	35.0	38.4	39.1
Somewhat oppose	22.0	14.7	12.4
Strongly oppose	13.0	16.5	17.3

Education	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Strongly support	34.2	32.1	41.1	23.8
Somewhat support	46.6	39.3	33.0	39.1
Somewhat oppose	13.7	17.9	13.4	13.2
Strongly oppose	5.5	10.7	12.5	23.8

Age*	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Strongly support	16.4	36.6	33.2	35.0
Somewhat support	41.4	41.8	39.2	37.9
Somewhat oppose	21.9	12.7	12.1	13.0
Strongly oppose	20.3	9.0	15.6	14.1

Religious Participation*	1-3 per month/more	Several per year	Rarely/never
Strongly support	35.5	28.5	29.7
Somewhat support	41.5	43.9	36.5
Somewhat oppose	10.0	13.8	17.4
Strongly oppose	13.0	13.8	16.4

Federal Vote Intention*	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Strongly support	47.3	23.1	7.8	11.5	24.6
Somewhat support	40.2	35.2	38.8	42.3	52.3
Somewhat oppose	8.7	17.6	25.0	26.9	9.2
Strongly oppose	3.8	24.2	28.4	19.2	13.8

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; * sig < 0.05

Demographics

Gender (%)	
Male	48.0
Female	52.0

Area of City (%)	
South	34.3
North	27.3
West	38.4

Income (%)	
Under \$40,000	20.7
\$40-\$80,000	42.2
Over \$80,000	37.0

Education (%)	
H-School/less	23.4
Some P-Sec.	22.9
Col-Tech-Grad	18.0
University Grad	35.7

Age (%)	
18-29	21.3
30-44	20.2
45-64	31.6
65 or older	26.9

Church Attendance (%)	
2-3/month +	31.3
Several/year	21.3
Rarely/never	47.4

Federal Vote (%)	
Conservative	46.9
Liberal	15.8
NDP	20.3
Green	4.0
Other parties	1.4
Undecided	11.6

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

Question

The federal government is in the process of passing its comprehensive crime legislation that aims to reduce crime by increasing penalties and requiring mandatory minimum sentences for some crimes. From what you know about the federal government's new crime legislation, please tell me how much you support or oppose this approach to crime reduction.

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know (unprompted)
- Refused (unprompted)