

MEDIA RELEASE

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One in two Kiwis approve of Police carrying guns

Half of New Zealanders think Police should carry guns, with the strongest support coming from males and those aged under 50, the latest Research New Zealand polling shows.

The polling also shows that more than two fifths of us are more worried about our personal safety than we were a year ago.

The poll found 53 percent of Kiwis approved of Police carrying guns, with one in five (19 percent) strongly approving of the idea. When asked about concern for their personal safety, 44 percent said they were now more concerned for their personal safety than they were 12 months ago.

Research New Zealand director Emanuel Kalafatelis said that those under 50 were more likely to approve of Police carrying guns and more likely to be increasingly worried about their safety. The former was also the case for males.

“Often the stereotype is that it’s older people in our community who are the most concerned about crime and safety but our poll indicates that it is younger people who are the more concerned.

“We found that 22 percent of 15 to 29 year-olds and 23 percent of 30 to 39 year-olds strongly approved of the Police carrying guns, compared to only 11 percent of people over 60. Personal safety was an issue for 53 percent of 15 to 29 year-olds compared with 35 percent of over 60-year-olds.

“Older people have grown up in a New Zealand where the Police don’t carry guns so it may seem more extreme to them, but perhaps younger people are more open to the idea.”

“Greatest support for the Police carrying guns came from males (60 percent) compared to females (46 percent),” Mr Kalafatelis said.

Other subgroups that were likely to support Police carrying guns were salary and wage earners (23 percent compared to 13 percent of retired people) and households with children (40 percent compared to 28 percent of households without children).

Research New Zealand polling was conducted between 25 June and 9 July.



The Research New Zealand poll of 500 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between 25 June and 9 July. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.5 % (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organisation but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.

Respondents were asked: *How much do you approve or disapprove of the Police carrying guns?*

They were also asked: *Would you say you are more or less concerned with your personal safety than you were last year, or has your opinion not changed?*

Table 1: Level of approval or disapproval for the Police to carry guns – by gender

How much do you approve or disapprove of the Police carrying guns?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	500	249	251
	%	%	%
Strongly approve	19	25	13
Approve	34	35	33
Neither	12	9	15
Disapprove	20	19	20
Strongly disapprove	14	9	18
Don't know	2	2	1
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 2: Level of approval or disapproval for the Police to carry guns – by age

How much do you approve or disapprove of the Police carrying guns?

	Total	15 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60+
Base =	500	87	97	90	93	133
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Strongly approve	19	22	23	21	18	11
Approve	34	31	35	35	29	38
Neither	12	12	9	7	14	18
Disapprove	20	19	23	17	23	18
Strongly disapprove	14	15	9	18	15	12
Don't know	2	1	1	3	1	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 3: Level of concern with personal safety

Would you say you are more or less concerned with your personal safety than you were last year, or has your opinion not changed?

	Total	15 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60+
Base=	500	87	97	90	93	133
	%	%	%	%	%	%
More	44	53	49	40	47	35
Less	1	1	3	0	1	1
Same, no change	52	45	46	60	52	55
Not concerned	2	1	1	0	0	7
Don't know	1	0	1	0	0	2

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 4: Level of approval or disapproval for the Police to carry guns – by level of concern with personal safety

How much do you approve or disapprove of the Police carrying guns?

	Total	More	Less	Same, no change
Base =	500	219	5	260
	%	%	%	%
Strongly approve	18	23	40	13
Approve	35	37	20	33
Neither	12	11	20	13
Disapprove	20	17	20	23
Strongly disapprove	13	10	0	17
Don't know	2	1	0	2
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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