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Perceptions of violent crime in New Zealand

Polling prepared for Afternoon's with Jim Mora by Research New Zealand

1. Analysis

The majority of New Zealanders believe that there is more violent crime in New Zealand now compared with 10 years ago.

Half believe there is "significantly more" violent crime now, while another 38% feel that there is "more".

Those who believe there is "significantly more" violent crime now, are more likely to be:

- Older (almost 60% of those aged 40+, compared with around 40% of those aged between 15 and 39), and
- With a medium level household income (i.e. \$40,000-\$69,999) compared with those on a lower or higher income bracket (nearly 60% of those with a household income of between \$40,000-\$69,000, compared with less than half of those with a household income of less than \$40,000 or a household income of \$70,000+.)

And while this is not statistically significant, there is a tendency for females to be more likely than males to believe that there is "significantly more" violent crime (54% females; 46% males)

2. Summary of the results

Q. Compared with 10 years ago, do you believe there is now more violent crime in New Zealand?

	Total	Male	Female
	n=503	n=250	n=253
Significantly more violent crime in NZ	50%	46%	54%
More violent crime	38%	44%	33%
Less violent crime	3%	5%	1%
No change in violent crime	5%	3%	7%
Don't know	4%	3%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Total may exceed 100% due to rounding.

Q. Compared with 10 years ago, do you believe there is now more violent crime in New Zealand?

	Total	15-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50+
	n=503	n=76	n=94	n=117	n=216
Significantly more violent crime in NZ	50%	40%	41%	56%	59%
More violent crime	38%	45%	47%	35%	31%
Less violent crime	3%	5%	2%	2%	2%
No change in violent crime	5%	4%	5%	5%	6%
Don't know	4%	7%	4%	2%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Total may exceed 100% due to rounding.

Q. Compared with 10 years ago, do you believe there is now more violent crime in New Zealand?

	Total	Under \$40,000	40,000 - \$69,999	\$70,000 plus	Don't know/refu sed
	N=503	N=185	N=131	N=142	N=45
Significantly more violent crime in NZ	50%	47%	58%	45%	57%
More violent crime	38%	42%	35%	40%	24%
Less violent crime	3%	3%	1%	4%	0%
No change in violent crime	5%	5%	4%	6%	10%
Don't know	4%	3%	3%	5%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Total may exceed 100% due to rounding.

3. Details

The omnibus survey of 503 randomly selected people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between January 23 and 31. The margin of error is +/- 4.4% (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it's an accurate representation of New Zealand's general public.

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