



DRUGS AND CRIME ACROSS AMERICA: POLICE CHIEFS SPEAK OUT

A NATIONAL SURVEY AMONG CHIEFS OF POLICE

CONDUCTED FOR
DRUG STRATEGIES
AND
POLICE FOUNDATION

BY
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DECEMBER 2004

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POLICE FOUNDATION

Through research, technical assistance, and dissemination of information, the **Police Foundation** works to improve American policing and enhance the capacity of the criminal justice system to function effectively. Motivating all of the foundation's efforts is the goal of efficient, humane policing that operates within the framework of democratic principles and highest ideals of the nation.

DRUG STRATEGIES

The mission of **Drug Strategies** is to identify and promote more effective approaches to the nation's drug problems and to support public and private initiatives that reduce the demand for drugs through prevention, education, treatment and law enforcement.

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FOREWORD

What do America's law enforcement leaders have to tell us about our "war on drugs"?

In scores of big cities and small towns across America, police resources are strained to the breaking point by drug crime and drug abuse. Most police chiefs believe that law enforcement has been largely unsuccessful in reducing the drug problem despite making drugs a priority for more than a decade. This is true not only for big city chiefs but also for chiefs in small and medium-size towns, where drug abuse has reached crisis proportions in recent years.

Drug Strategies and the Police Foundation commissioned Peter D. Hart Research Associates to survey the experience of more than 300 police chiefs across the nation who are on the "front lines" in dealing with drugs. This poll builds on a similar survey of police chiefs conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates in 1996 for Drug Strategies and the Police Foundation. The new survey provides important perspectives on how police chiefs' attitudes towards drug enforcement have changed in the intervening eight years.

Drugs and Crime Across America: Police Chiefs Speak Out finds that a strong majority of police chiefs regard drug abuse as a serious problem in their communities, ahead of domestic violence, property crimes, violent crimes and the threat of terrorism. Since the 1996 poll, the percentage of police chiefs who see drug abuse as a top problem has increased. Arrests nationwide for drug offenses have also increased since 1996, and now exceed arrests for any other category of crime, including assault, larceny, theft and DUI. More than four-fifths of all drug arrests are for possession. Most police chiefs call for major changes in the nation's drug policies: they support a balanced approach that provides as much support for education, prevention and treatment as for law enforcement in combating drugs.

Drug Strategies and the Police Foundation appreciate the candor and cooperation of all the chiefs of police who participated in this survey. Their views are essential to the formulation of more effective drug policies.

Hubert Williams
President
Police Foundation

Mathea Falco
President
Drug Strategies

DRUGS AND CRIME ACROSS AMERICA:

POLICE CHIEFS SPEAK OUT

Peter D. Hart Research Associates conducted a national telephone survey among 300 chiefs of police (or, in fewer than one in three cases, their designated spokesperson within the police department). The sample was stratified by the size of the population served by each police department, so that it represents a cross section of police departments according to population. Interviews were conducted among 60 police chiefs in large cities (with populations greater than 100,000), 88 in medium communities (25,000 to 100,000 residents), and 152 in small towns (fewer than 25,000 residents). The interviews were conducted from June 1 to 9, 2004.

OVERVIEW

In the view of America's police chiefs, the drug problem facing our communities is greater today than it was in the mid-1990s. They believe that drugs are now a far more serious problem than property crime, violent crime, domestic violence or even the threat of terrorism. Despite making drugs a priority for more than a decade, top law enforcement officers report little progress. Strong majorities of chiefs say that law enforcement has been unsuccessful in reducing the drug problem, while most do not believe that major progress has been made over the past ten years.

Most police chiefs call for major reform in the nation's approach to drug abuse and drug crime: this is true for law enforcement leaders in big cities, suburban areas and small towns. They support a balanced approach to the drug problem that combines law enforcement with public health, drug prevention and treatment, particularly programs that provide alternatives to incarceration for non-violent drug users. Compared to any other problem in their communities, police chiefs report they need far more resources to deal with drugs and drug addiction.

Major findings of the 2004 poll include:

- **Drug abuse continues to be the top law enforcement problem and it has increased in seriousness since 1996.** Sixty-three percent of law enforcement leaders say that drug abuse is an extremely or quite serious problem in their communities, which is a five percentage-point increase since a comparable survey in 1996. In addition, a strong majority (60%) states that drug abuse is a more serious problem in their community today than it was five years ago. Police chiefs in small towns in particular report substantial increases in drug abuse in their communities since 1996.
- **The majority of police chiefs (63%) rate drug abuse as an extremely or quite serious problem in their communities, while only a small minority of chiefs describe the threat of terrorism (17%) and violent crime (18%) in those terms.**
- **Police chiefs (67%) believe overwhelmingly that law enforcement has been unsuccessful in reducing the drug problem.**
- **Police chiefs call for major changes in the way that law enforcement deals with the drug problem.** Most police chiefs (84%) believe either that a fundamental overhaul or a few major changes are needed in the way we address the drug problem in the United States. Only 15% advocate minor changes or a continuation of the current approach.
- **Three out of four chiefs (74%) believe that the resource gap in dealing with drugs is far greater than the resource gap in dealing with any other crime problems they confront, including the threat of terrorism.**

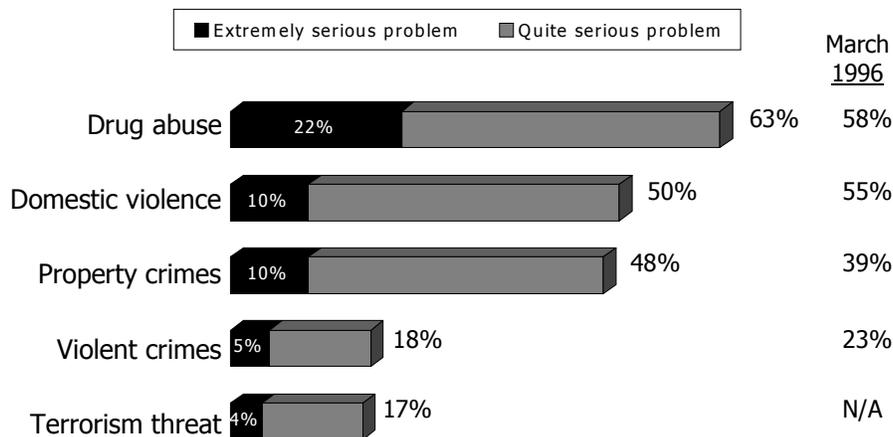
THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM

Police chiefs across the country view drug abuse as the most important problem they face, far greater than the threat of terrorism. Sixty three percent (63%) identify drugs as an “extremely serious” or “quite serious” problem compared to 58% in 1996.

Police chiefs view drug abuse as a significantly more serious problem than domestic violence (50% extremely/quite serious problem), property crimes (48%), violent crimes (18%) and the threat of terrorism (17%).

Seriousness Of Problems In My Community

All Police Chiefs



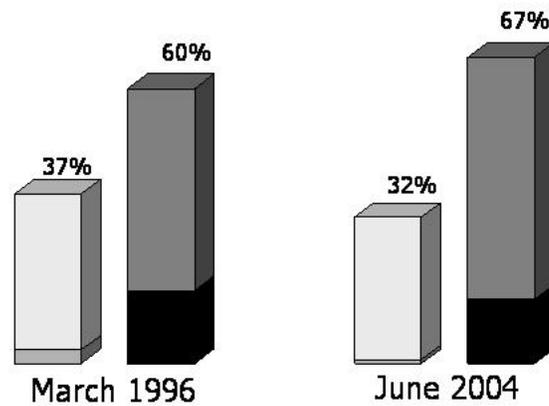
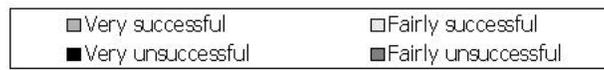
Police chiefs in medium-sized communities (25,000 to 100,000 residents) and small towns (fewer than 25,000) now rank drug abuse as the most serious problem they face. In particular, police chiefs in small towns are feeling less shielded from drug abuse today since 71% state that drug abuse has become a greater problem in the past five years, compared with 64% who said this in 1996. This increased concern reflects the rapid increase in drug problems in smaller communities in recent years, and the spread of methamphetamine, heroin and oxycontin abuse in rural areas.

THE NEED FOR A NEW APPROACH

America's chiefs of police believe it is time for a new approach to the drug problem. Fully 67% of police chiefs believe that police and other law enforcement agencies have been *unsuccessful* in reducing the drug problem, compared with 60% who said this in 1996. This is true for chiefs in all regions of the country, from small town departments to large city forces.

Success Of Law Enforcement Efforts Against Drugs

All Police Chiefs



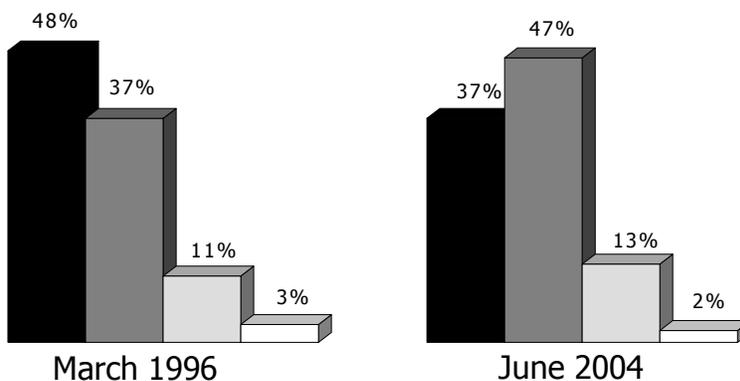
The vast majority of police chiefs call for significant changes in how the country deals with the drug problem. Given the magnitude of the problem and the lack of progress in recent years, it is not surprising that most police chiefs strongly believe that the way the nation deals with drugs needs major reform. More than one-third (37%) of police chiefs state that the nation's drug policy needs a fundamental overhaul and 47% think that it needs major changes. A small minority (13%) would institute minor changes, while only 2% would maintain the same approach. The view that the status quo is not acceptable is consistent across all community sizes.

Chiefs Call For New Approach In Dealing With Drug Problem

All Police Chiefs

In dealing with the drug problem, we need:

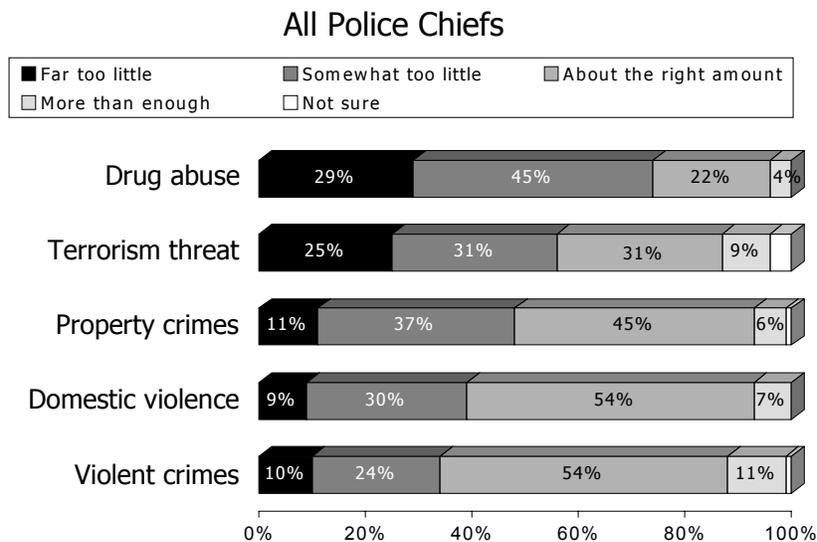
■ Fundamental overhaul ■ Major changes ■ Minor changes □ Maintain current approach



RESOURCES INADEQUATE FOR DEALING WITH DRUGS

Police chiefs report that they have too few resources to deal with drug abuse. Police chiefs are loud and clear in their call for major reform in the amount of resources they have to address drug abuse. Three in four (74%) state that they have too few resources devoted to the drug problem. Only one in four (26%) are satisfied that they have the right amount or more than enough resources available.

Resources Available For Dealing With Issues



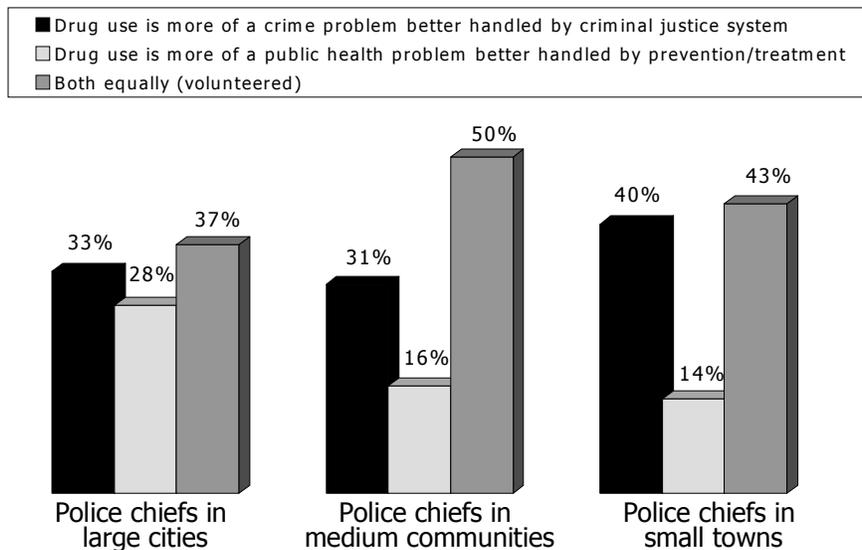
Dissatisfaction with the amount of resources to combat drugs is widespread but this dissatisfaction does not extend to the resources available to fight other types of crimes. For violent crimes, such as homicide and assault, more than half (54%) of police chiefs say they have the right amount of resources and another 11% state they have more than enough. Compared to big city chiefs, chiefs in medium-size communities and small towns express the strongest dissatisfaction with the resources they have to deal with drug abuse.

At a time when national concerns about terrorism are so prominent, it is interesting to note that fewer than 29% of the chiefs say that the war on terror is taking away resources once used for drug enforcement. Even in large cities, where the threat of terrorist attack is felt most keenly, only 25% of the chiefs report that shifting resources to fighting terrorism limits them in their ability to fight drugs, whereas 42% say that this shift in resources does not limit them at all.

HOW POLICE CHIEFS VIEW THE DRUG PROBLEM

Police chiefs view drug abuse as a complex issue that should be addressed as both a law enforcement and a public health problem.

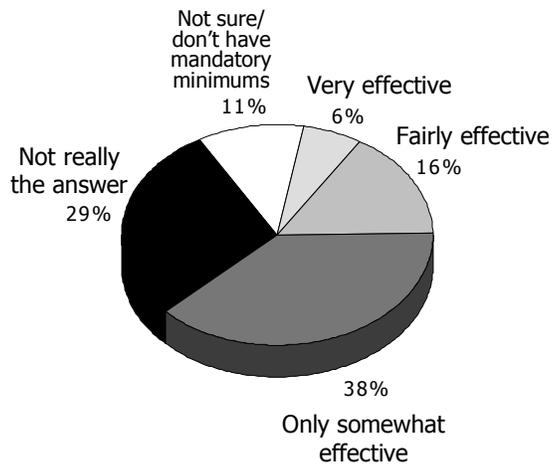
How Police Chiefs Regard The Drug Problem



When asked to make a choice as to whether drug abuse is better handled by the criminal justice system or by a public health approach, 35% of police chiefs chose the criminal justice system while 18% selected public health programs. However, the largest proportion of chiefs (44%) reached outside the confines of the survey question to *volunteer* the answer that both should have an equal role. The fact that so many chiefs gave a response not offered by the interviewer strongly indicates that they do not see criminal justice and public health as mutually exclusive, but rather as mutually reinforcing.

Perceived Effectiveness Of Mandatory Minimum Sentences

All Police Chiefs



When asked how effective mandatory minimum sentences for *drug possession* have been in reducing drug trafficking, only 22% of the chiefs believe they have been very or fairly effective, 38% believe they have been somewhat effective, whereas 29% say they are not the answer. In large cities, 37% say that mandatory minimum sentences are not the answer.

Despite the low level of confidence in the effectiveness of mandatory minimums, a majority of police chiefs (64%) do not want to reduce them. This apparent inconsistency could have several explanations. It is possible that police chiefs fear that reducing mandatory sentences would signal a weakening of resolve in combating drug abuse. Some chiefs may also believe that mandatory sentences play a role in motivating drug users to enter treatment.

Police chiefs express strong support for drug treatment programs in dealing with drug users. A solid majority (61%) favor requiring nonviolent drug users to enter court-supervised treatment programs rather than prosecuting them. Big city chiefs support this approach even more strongly: 73% are in favor.

Yet, when asked how difficult it is for drug users to find treatment in the community, 40% of the chiefs say that placements in drug programs are “very” or “fairly” difficult to find. Chiefs in small towns are even less likely to say that programs are readily available than are chiefs in large cities.

CONCLUSION

Despite decades of fighting the “war on drugs,” law enforcement leaders are frustrated by the lack of concrete progress. Since the 1996 poll, the percentage of police chiefs who see drug abuse as a top problem has increased. Arrests nationwide for drug offenses have also increased since 1996, and more than four-fifths of all drug arrests are for possession. A strong majority of police chiefs continue to regard drug abuse as a serious problem in their communities, ahead of domestic violence, property crimes, violent crimes and the threat of terrorism.

Most police chiefs in this survey call for major changes in the nation’s drug policies. They have voiced support for a new approach that provides as much support for education, prevention and treatment as for law enforcement in combating drugs. They also have expressed the urgent need for increased resources to address the drug problem in America.

Survey Instrument

Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc.
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Interviews: 300 respondents:
60 in large cities
88 in medium communities
152 in small towns

Dates: June 1-9, 2004

FINAL

Study #7265
 Drug Strategies Survey
 June 2004

95 Male
 5 Female
[109]

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

1. **(IF RESPONDENT IS THE POLICE CHIEF, RECORD BELOW. IF NOT THE POLICE CHIEF, ASK:)
 If I may ask, what is your position in the department?**

	All Police Chiefs	
Chief	65	[137-144]
Other	35	
Refused	-	

2. **Let me begin with a few issues that may or may not be facing your community. For each one, please tell me how much of a problem you believe it is for your community--an extremely serious problem, quite serious, just somewhat serious, or not a problem.**

<i>THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE OF ALL POLICE CHIEFS WHO SAY EXTREMELY SERIOUS PROBLEM</i>						
	Extremely Serious Problem	Quite Serious Problem	Just Somewhat Serious Problem	Not A Problem	Not Sure	
Drug abuse						[146]
All police chiefs						
June 2004	22	41	34	3	-	
February 27 - March 7, 1996	23	35	39	3	-	
Large cities						
June 2004	22	55	23	-	-	
Medium communities						
June 2004	20	41	39	-	-	
Small towns						
June 2004	24	35	35	6	-	
Domestic violence						[145]
All police chiefs						
June 2004	10	40	46	4	-	
February 27 - March 7, 1996	14	41	41	3	1	
Large cities						
June 2004	13	49	38	-	-	
Medium communities						
June 2004	11	46	42	1	-	
Small towns						
June 2004	8	33	52	7	-	

Q.2. (cont'd)	<u>Extremely Serious Problem</u>	<u>Quite Serious Problem</u>	<u>Just Somewhat Serious Problem</u>	<u>Not A Problem</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Property crimes, such as burglary and theft						[147]
All police chiefs						
June 2004.....	10	38	45	7	-	
February 27 - March 7, 1996	9	30	55	5	1	
Large cities						
June 2004.....	18	54	28	-	-	
Medium communities						
June 2004.....	14	40	45	1	-	
Small towns						
June 2004.....	4	32	51	13	-	
Violent crimes, such as homicide and assault						[148]
All police chiefs						
June 2004.....	5	13	49	32	1	
February 27 - March 7, 1996	9	14	43	34	-	
Large cities						
June 2004.....	8	35	55	2	-	
Medium communities						
June 2004.....	8	17	53	21	1	
Small towns						
June 2004.....	2	2	44	51	1	
The threat of terrorism						[149]
All police chiefs						
June 2004.....	4	13	44	38	1	
Large cities						
June 2004.....	10	30	50	10	-	
Medium communities						
June 2004.....	2	14	57	26	1	
Small towns						
June 2004.....	3	6	35	55	1	

3. I'm going to read you the same list of issues again, and for each one, I'd like you to tell me what you think about the level of resources you have available for your police department to use in dealing with this issue. When it comes to ..., would you say that there are more than enough, about the right amount, somewhat too little, or far too little resources available for dealing with this problem?

<i>THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE OF ALL POLICE CHIEFS WHO SAY SOMEWHAT OR FAR TOO LITTLE</i>						
	<u>More Than Enough</u>	<u>About The Right Amount</u>	<u>Somewhat Too Little</u>	<u>Far Too Little</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Drug abuse						[151]
All police chiefs						
June 2004.....	4	22	45	29	-	
Large cities						
June 2004.....	3	25	44	28	-	
Medium communities						
June 2004.....	3	21	49	26	1	
Small towns						
June 2004.....	3	22	43	32	-	

Q.3. (cont'd)	More Than Enough	About The Right Amount	Somewhat Too Little	Far Too Little	Not Sure	
The threat of terrorism						[154]
All police chiefs						
June 2004.....	9	31	31	25	4	
Large cities						
June 2004.....	5	33	43	17	2	
Medium communities						
June 2004.....	7	32	31	26	4	
Small towns						
June 2004.....	12	30	26	28	4	
Property crimes, such as burglary and theft						[152]
All police chiefs						
June 2004.....	6	45	37	11	1	
Large cities						
June 2004.....	-	27	53	20	-	
Medium communities						
June 2004.....	6	46	39	9	-	
Small towns						
June 2004.....	8	52	30	9	1	
Domestic violence						[150]
All police chiefs						
June 2004.....	7	54	30	9	-	
Large cities						
June 2004.....	7	43	40	10	-	
Medium communities						
June 2004.....	7	50	31	11	1	
Small towns						
June 2004.....	8	60	25	7	-	
Violent crimes, such as homicide and assault						[153]
All police chiefs						
June 2004.....	11	54	24	10	1	
Large cities						
June 2004.....	2	52	33	13	-	
Medium communities						
June 2004.....	8	61	25	6	-	
Small towns						
June 2004.....	16	51	19	12	2	

4. Compared with five years ago, do you feel that drug abuse today is a much greater problem, a somewhat greater problem, about the same, somewhat less of a problem, or much less of a problem?

	All Police Chiefs		Large Cities 6/04	Medium Communities 6/04	Small Towns 6/04	
	6/04	3/96				
A much greater problem.....	31	34	18	25	39	[155]
A somewhat greater problem.....	29	29	22	28	32	
About the same.....	34	31	53	42	23	
Somewhat less of a problem.....	5	5	7	5	4	
Much less of a problem.....	1	-	-	-	1	
Not sure.....	-	1	-	-	1	

5. Sometimes the police feel limited in their ability to deal with drugs in their communities. To what extent do you feel that ... limits law enforcement's ability to address the drug problem in your community--a great deal, a fair amount, only somewhat, or not at all?

<i>THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE OF ALL POLICE CHIEFS WHO SAY A GREAT DEAL</i>							
	<u>A Great Deal</u>	<u>A Fair Amount</u>	<u>Only Somewhat</u>	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>Depends (VOL)</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Low conviction rates for dealers							[156]
All police chiefs							
June 2004	31	27	27	9	4	2	
Large cities							
June 2004	28	27	32	11	2	-	
Medium communities							
June 2004	23	25	39	12	1	-	
Small towns							
June 2004	36	29	19	6	7	3	
Low conviction rates for users							[160]
All police chiefs							
June 2004	25	19	38	14	3	1	
Large cities							
June 2004	22	22	45	11	-	-	
Medium communities							
June 2004	15	17	39	26	2	1	
Small towns							
June 2004	32	19	35	8	4	2	
Limited resources for law enforcement in your local community							[158]
All police chiefs							
June 2004	24	30	35	10	1	-	
Large cities							
June 2004	20	35	38	7	-	-	
Medium communities							
June 2004	19	33	39	9	-	-	
Small towns							
June 2004	28	26	30	12	3	1	
Not enough resources for school-based prevention efforts							[159]
All police chiefs							
June 2004	21	20	26	30	2	1	
Large cities							
June 2004	20	18	32	27	-	3	
Medium communities							
June 2004	20	19	25	35	1	-	
Small towns							
June 2004	23	20	24	29	3	1	
Resources once used for drug enforcement and now being used to fight the threat of terrorism							[161]
All police chiefs							
June 2004	14	15	31	34	2	4	
Large cities							
June 2004	8	17	33	42	-	-	
Medium communities							
June 2004	10	18	31	35	2	4	
Small towns							
June 2004	18	12	30	31	3	6	

Q.5. (cont'd)	<u>A Great Deal</u>	<u>A Fair Amount</u>	<u>Only Somewhat</u>	<u>Not At All</u>	<u>Depends (VOL)</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Lack of community support							[157]
All police chiefs							
June 2004	13	17	34	34	2	-	
Large cities							
June 2004	7	10	45	38	-	-	
Medium communities							
June 2004	9	17	34	36	4	-	
Small towns							
June 2004	18	19	30	31	1	1	

6. **How successful do you feel that the police and other law enforcement agencies have been in reducing the drug problem in the United States--very successful, fairly successful, fairly unsuccessful, or very unsuccessful?**

	<u>All Police Chiefs</u>		<u>Large Cities</u>	<u>Medium Communities</u>	<u>Small Towns</u>	
	<u>6/04</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>6/04</u>	<u>6/04</u>	<u>6/04</u>	
Very successful.....	1	3	-	-	3	[162]
Fairly successful.....	31	34	33	31	30	
Fairly unsuccessful.....	53	44	55	52	52	
Very unsuccessful.....	14	16	12	16	14	
Not sure.....	1	3	-	1	1	

7a. **When you think about the way we deal with the drug problem in the United States, which comes closest to your own point of view--that we need to make a fundamental overhaul in the way we deal with the drug problem, that a few major changes are needed, that some minor changes are needed, or that we need to maintain the same approach now being taken?**

	<u>All Police Chiefs</u>		<u>Large Cities</u>	<u>Medium Communities</u>	<u>Small Towns</u>	
	<u>6/04</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>6/04</u>	<u>6/04</u>	<u>6/04</u>	
Fundamental overhaul.....	37	48	35	35	37	[163]
A few major changes.....	47	37	42	49	49	
Some minor changes.....	13	11	15	13	13	
Maintain same approach.....	2	3	3	2	1	
Not sure.....	1	1	5	1	-	

7b. **I'm going to read you a list of suggested changes that have been proposed regarding the way the drug problem is dealt with in this country. For each one, please tell me whether you feel that it would be a step in the right direction or a step in the wrong direction.**

<i>THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE OF ALL POLICE CHIEFS WHO SAY A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION</i>				
	<u>A Step In The Right Direction</u>	<u>A Step In The Wrong Direction</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Make possession of small amounts of marijuana a misdemeanor				[164]
All police chiefs				
June 2004	67	28	5	
Large cities				
June 2004	72	23	5	
Medium communities				
June 2004	63	31	6	
Small towns				
June 2004	68	29	3	

Q.7b. (cont'd)	<u>A Step In The Right Direction</u>	<u>A Step In The Wrong Direction</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Rather than prosecuting nonviolent drug users, requiring them to enter treatment programs supervised by the courts				[167]
All police chiefs				
June 2004	61	34	5	
Large cities				
June 2004	73	25	2	
Medium communities				
June 2004	64	33	3	
Small towns				
June 2004	55	38	7	
If local law permits, allowing medical marijuana to be used for seriously ill individuals				[165]
All police chiefs				
June 2004	38	51	11	
Large cities				
June 2004	32	60	8	
Medium communities				
June 2004	46	44	10	
Small towns				
June 2004	37	51	12	
Reducing mandatory sentences for low-level, nonviolent drug offenders				[166]
All police chiefs				
June 2004	33	64	3	
Large cities				
June 2004	37	60	3	
Medium communities				
June 2004	41	56	3	
Small towns				
June 2004	26	71	3	

8. **Based on your experience, how easy or difficult is it for drug users in your area to find a place in a treatment program in your community? Are placements in drug treatment programs in your community readily available, fairly available, fairly difficult to find, or very difficult to find?**

	<u>All Police Chiefs</u>		<u>Large Cities</u>	<u>Medium Communities</u>	<u>Small Towns</u>	
	<u>6/04</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>6/04</u>	<u>6/04</u>	<u>6/04</u>	
Readily available.....	30	20	33	34	27	[168]
Fairly available.....	29	42	35	27	27	
Fairly difficult to find	21	26	17	23	21	
Very difficult to find.....	19	11	12	16	23	
Not sure	1	1	3	-	2	

9. **Do you feel that drug use is more of a crime problem better handled by the criminal justice system, or more of a public health problem better handled by prevention and treatment programs?**

	<u>All Police Chiefs</u>		<u>Large Cities</u>	<u>Medium Communities</u>	<u>Small Towns</u>	
	<u>6/04</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>6/04</u>	<u>6/04</u>	<u>6/04</u>	
Criminal justice system.....	35	38	33	31	40	[169]
Prevention and treatment programs.....	18	27	28	16	14	
Both equally (VOL)	44	34	37	50	43	
Not sure	3	1	2	3	3	

10. Compared with five years ago, do you think that drug-related gang activity in your community is a much greater problem, a somewhat greater problem, about the same, somewhat less of a problem, or much less of a problem?

	All Police Chiefs	Large Cities	Medium Communities	Small Towns	
Much greater problem.....	11	20	12	6	[170]
Somewhat greater problem.....	18	18	23	16	
About the same.....	40	42	44	37	
Somewhat less of a problem.....	13	15	14	12	
Much less of a problem.....	12	5	5	18	
Not sure.....	6	-	2	11	

- 11a. When it comes your community, which type of drug-related gangs are more active--local gangs whose influence is limited to your local area or national gangs whose influence stretches across the country?

	All Police Chiefs	Large Cities	Medium Communities	Small Towns	
Local gangs.....	58	77	66	45	[171]
National gangs.....	9	13	11	7	
Both equally active (VOL).....	5	7	9	1	
Neither/no gang activity (VOL).....	28	3	13	47	
Not sure.....	-	-	1	-	

- 11b. What are the names of the two or three drug-related gangs that are most active in your community?

(PROBE:) Are there any others?

	All Police Chiefs	Large Cities	Medium Communities	Small Towns	
Crips	12%	22%	13%	8%	[172-178]
Bloods	9	18	11	5	
Latin Kings	6	7	14	2	
Gangsters Disciples	6	8	10	3	
Latin, Hispanic, Mexican gangs	5	18	3	1	
Don't know; no response	11%	17%	10%	10%	

12. From your perspective, how effective have mandatory minimum sentences for drug possession been in reducing drug trafficking in your community--very effective, fairly effective, only somewhat effective, or not really the answer to the problem in your community?

	All Police Chiefs		Large Cities	Medium Communities	Small Towns	
	6/04	3/96	6/04	6/04	6/04	
Very effective.....	6	7	5	7	6	[179]
Fairly effective.....	16	14	23	18	12	
Only somewhat effective.....	38	33	30	43	39	
Not really the answer.....	29	40	37	26	27	
Don't have mandatory minimum sentencing (VOL).....	8	4	3	5	11	
Not sure.....	3	2	2	1	5	

13. I'm going to read you a list of ways in which members of the community can get involved with the police in addressing the drug problem. For each one, please tell me how much cooperation police in your community receive from the general public--a great deal, a fair amount, just some or very little.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE OF ALL POLICE CHIEFS WHO SAY A GREAT DEAL OF COOPERATION

	A Great Deal Of Cooperation	A Fair Amount Of Cooperation	Just Some Cooperation	Very Little Cooperation	Does Not Apply To My Community (VOL)	Not Sure	
Neighborhood watch and community policing programs focused on drugs							[180]
All police chiefs							
June 2004	25	31	19	14	11	-	
Large cities							
June 2004	43	42	12	3	-	-	
Medium communities							
June 2004	28	39	24	7	1	1	
Small towns							
June 2004	16	22	19	22	21	-	
Training landlords to report drug sales							[208]
All police chiefs							
June 2004	11	18	25	30	16	-	
Large cities							
June 2004	23	33	27	17	-	-	
Medium communities							
June 2004	8	18	24	36	13	1	
Small towns							
June 2004	7	12	24	32	25	-	
Designing drug-free neighborhoods with community input							[209]
All police chiefs							
June 2004	11	17	22	27	22	1	
Large cities							
June 2004	20	27	28	13	12	-	
Medium communities							
June 2004	9	15	19	33	23	1	
Small towns							
June 2004	9	15	22	28	26	-	

14. Compared with five years ago, do you think that the problem of illegal drug use among police officers has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

	All Police Chiefs	Large Cities	Medium Communities	Small Towns	
Gotten better	14	25	11	11	[210]
Gotten worse	9	8	6	11	
Stayed about the same	42	47	53	34	
There is no problem of illegal drug use among police officers (VOL)	28	10	24	37	
Not sure	7	10	6	7	

FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

F1. **What is your age?**

	All Police Chiefs	
18-24.....	-	[211-212]
25-29.....	2	
30-34.....	3	
35-39.....	7	
40-44.....	19	
45-49.....	24	
50-54.....	23	
55-59.....	14	
60-64.....	5	
65-69.....	1	
70 and over.....	1	
Refused.....	1	

F2a. **How long have you been in your current position?**

	All Police Chiefs	
Two years or less	29	[213]
3 or 4 years	16	
5 to 7 years	22	
8 to 10 years	12	
11 to 15 years	13	
16 to 20 years	3	
More than 20 years	4	
Refused/not sure.....	1	

F2b. **And how long have you been in law enforcement?**

	All Police Chiefs	
Two years or less	-	[214]
3 or 4 years	1	
5 to 7 years	3	
8 to 10 years	4	
11 to 15 years	8	
16 to 20 years	16	
More than 20 years	67	
Refused/Not sure.....	1	

F3. **Have you ever served in the narcotics division of a police force?**

	All Police Chiefs	
Yes, have served in a narcotics division	48	[215]
No, have NOT served in a narcotics division	51	
Not sure.....	1	

F4. **Does your community have a drug court in operation that is currently hearing and deciding drug cases?**

	All Police Chiefs	
Yes, has a drug court.....	42	[216]
No, does not have a drug court	57	
Not sure	1	

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