

# 17th Annual National Survey Results of Police Chiefs & Sheriffs

The following survey questions were posed by mail of 22,587 Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs in the United States. It represents a cross section of professional command officers involving every state. The survey was conducted for the 17th consecutive year by the National Association of Chiefs of Police. (321)264-0911. www.apfh.org, policeinfo@apfh.org. Permission to reproduce in whole or part is given if credit is given to the National Association of Chiefs of Police © 2005.

	YES	NO
<b>DEATH PENALTY</b>		
1. Do you believe the death penalty serves as a deterrent to certain types of crimes?	88.1%	
2. Do you believe that when a law enforcement officer is feloniously killed in the line of duty that the penalty upon conviction should be death?	96.5%	
<b>FIREARMS</b>		
3. Should any law-abiding citizen be able to purchase a firearm for sport or self-defense?	93.6%	
4. Within the past year, has your agency been called upon to arrest anyone who has made a false statement on an application to purchase a firearm?		92.2%
5. Should anyone (such as a convicted felon) in violation of state or federal firearm possession laws, be prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney and, if convicted, receive a maximum prison term?	89.7%	
6. Do you believe law-abiding citizens should be limited to the purchase of no more than one firearm per month?		72.8%
7. Do you maintain that criminals currently are able to obtain basically any type of firearm by illegal means?	96.1%	
8. Do you believe the application & training process to allow commercial airline pilots to carry firearms in the cockpit is too restrictive and burdensome?		53.6%
9. Will a national concealed handgun permit reduce rates of violent crime as recent studies in some states have already reflected?	63.1%	
<b>MEDIA</b>		
10. Do you believe the media (TV, radio and print) is fair and impartial in reporting the news?		93.2%
11. Does your agency have at least one officer assigned to handle media requests?	70.9%	
<b>TERRORISM</b>		
12. Has the federal government provided or offered your department training to meet the increased threat of terrorism in the wake of the terror attacks of September 11, 2001?	70%	
13. Has your department participated in any state or local terrorism response simulations?		50.8%
14. Will foreign or domestic terrorist threats or acts increase in this country in the next year?	86.6%	
<b>TECHNOLOGY/EQUIPMENT</b>		
15. Do you think anyone convicted of a felony should be required to provide DNA samples to be cataloged in a manner similar to current practices of fingerprinting?	93.6%	
16. Does encryption technology - the ability to allow electronic messaging to be private and untraceable - hamper law enforcement's investigative efforts?	77%	
17. Does your department require every officer to wear a bullet-resistant jacket while on duty?	64.7%	
18. Does your department have video equipment in every on-duty patrol vehicle?		59.6%
19. Does your department issue digital cameras for officers' use?	70.8%	
20. Does your department have a computer in every on duty patrol vehicle?		71.5%
21. Does your department use tasers?		71.2%
<b>DRUGS</b>		
22. Should marijuana be legalized in the United States for those who have a legitimate medical need for the drug?		58.8%
23. Have you seen an increase in the abuse of OxyContin and other Schedule II Narcotics in your community?	68.9%	
24. Has the national war on drugs, which has been going on for more than 15 years, been successful in reducing the use of illegal drugs?		78.1%
25. Do you think the decriminalization of "soft drugs" would allow more resources for violent and property crime management?		72.2%
<b>HOMELAND SECURITY</b>		
26. Has the current increased threat of terrorist acts and heightened security made it more difficult to obtain new recruits in your department/agency?		92.7%
27. Have you observed more cooperation between federal and local agencies in the past year?		69.7%
28. Is the current "color-coded" terrorist threat level an effective way of informing the public of threats to homeland security?	66.2%	
<b>OTHER</b>		
29. Does your department have a written and enforced policy against racial profiling?	67.3%	
30. Does your department currently have at least one active canine unit in force?		70.8%
31. If a one-time grant along with matching funds from your community were offered by a non-profit police organization to fund the purchase and initial training of a canine, would your department be able to maintain the ongoing expense in future years?	56.8%	
32. Do you feel "civilian review boards" are an effective method of handling citizen complaints against law enforcement officers?		76.5%
33. Does your department provide "sensitivity training" for its officers?	58.7%	