

18th 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 18th 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
DEATH PENALTY		
1. Do you believe the death penalty serves as a deterrent to certain types of crimes?	86.2%	
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?	96.8%	
FIREARMS		
3. Should any law-abiding citizen be able to purchase a firearm for sport or self-defense?	92.4%	
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?		93.2%
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%	
6. Do you maintain that criminals currently are able to obtain basically any type of firearm by illegal means?	94.9%	
7. Has your department made changes in radio equipment or frequency to ensure effective communication with federal, state and nearby local agencies?	61.4%	
8. Will a national concealed handgun permit reduce rates of violent crime as recent studies in some states have already reflected?	59.9%	
TERRORISM		
9. 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?	73.9%	
10. Has your department participated in any state or local terrorism response simulations?	53.7%	
TECHNOLOGY/EQUIPMENT		
11. Does your department provide at least annual driver training for drivers of department vehicles?		68.4%
12. Do you require officers to wear reflective apparel when directing traffic or investigating a crash regardless of the time of day?	58.8%	
13. 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?	96.4%	
14. Does encryption technology - the ability to allow electronic messaging to be private and untraceable - hamper law enforcement's investigative efforts?	74.1%	
15. Does your department require every officer to wear a bullet-resistant vest while on duty?	64.3%	
16. Does your department have video equipment in every on-duty patrol vehicle?		55%
17. Does your department have a computer in every on duty patrol vehicle?		66.9%
18. Does your department use tasers and is training required prior to deployment?		63.1%
DRUGS		
19. Should marijuana be legalized in the United States for those who have a legitimate medical need for the drug?		61.8%
20. Have you seen an increase in the abuse of OxyContin and other Schedule II Narcotics in your community?	67.5%	
21. 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?		82%
22. Do you think the decriminalization of "soft drugs" would allow more resources for violent and property crime management?		69.2%
HOMELAND SECURITY		
23. Does your department have a written and practiced natural disaster response plan?	72.4%	
24. Have you observed more cooperation between federal and local agencies in the past year?	67.1%	
25. Does your department have a written plan for conducting mandatory evacuations?	52.9%	
26. During time of natural disaster, should local law enforcement command officers be authorized to deputize qualified law-abiding armed citizens to assist in restoring and maintaining public order?	70.1%	
OTHER		
27. Does your department provide instruction to officers on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle?		64.3%
28. Does your department provide free access to mental health professionals to assist officers with stress-related problems?	66%	
29. Does your department have a written and enforced policy against racial profiling?	75.8%	
30. Does your department currently have at least one active canine unit in force?	65.4%	
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?	59%	
32. Do you feel "civilian review boards" are an effective method of handling citizen complaints against law enforcement officers?		76%
33. Does your department provide "sensitivity training" for its officers?	57.5%	