



Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center

Selected Findings

June 2011

Perceptions of Crime in Oklahoma, 2010

The Oklahoma Statistical Analysis Center recently conducted the first statewide crime victimization survey. As part of the survey, staff asked respondents about their perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system in Oklahoma. The full report is located on the SAC website, which is at www.osbi.ok.gov.

Most Oklahomans feel safe in their communities and approve of the job done by law enforcement

Based on survey results, an estimated 97% of Oklahomans feel safe in their community, with 55% reporting that they feel “very safe” and 42% reporting that they feel “somewhat safe” in their community; less than one percent feel “very unsafe.”

Fifty-four percent of Oklahomans do not think crime is a problem in their community; 19% feel crime is “not a problem” and 34% feel crime is only a “slight problem”; one in six feel that crime is a “serious problem.”

Eighty-nine percent of Oklahomans approve of law enforcement efforts in their community; an estimated 48% rate law enforcement as “very good” and 41% “somewhat good.” Approximately seven percent rate law enforcement’s performance in their community as “very bad.”

Most Oklahomans support the death penalty

An estimated 87% of Oklahomans support the death penalty, with 64% reporting that they “strongly support” and 23% reporting they “somewhat support” capital punishment; four percent of Oklahomans are “strongly against” the death penalty.

Oklahomans are divided on how they feel about released offenders

Twenty-seven percent of Oklahomans feel that most released offenders are “dangerous or untrustworthy”; 22% feel they are “lazy and a drain on society”; 21% feel they are “mostly normal, no different from anyone else”;

and 14% of Oklahomans feel released offenders are “reformed, contributing members of society.” Fifteen percent of Oklahomans were unable to categorize their opinion of released offenders.

Oklahomans are also divided on reasons for crime and where criminal justice dollars should be concentrated

Thirty-five percent of Oklahomans reported feeling that “drugs, alcohol, or other substance abuse” is most responsible for crime in their communities. A third reported feeling that “the decline of family values and discipline” is most responsible, and 11% percent felt that “the economy” was most responsible.

An estimated 27% of Oklahomans feel that criminal justice dollars should target “education and prevention”; approximately half feel that “arrest, prosecution, and incarceration” or “stopping the flow of illegal drugs” should be targeted (figure 1).

Figure 1. Which of the following do you feel should receive the most money and support in the fight against crime?

Resource Target	Percent
Education/Prevention	27.3%
Arrest/Prosecution/Incarceration	23.5
Stopping Flow of Illegal Drugs	23.5
Treatment/Rehabilitation	12.3
Something Else	9.8
Don't Know	3.6