

Child saving versus Incarceration: How Much Are We Willing to Pay?

Dear Participant,

It is well known that the community prefers a punitive response to juvenile crime. However, many researchers have questioned whether or not this is worthwhile, because studies have found that the information may not be as accurate as once thought. Therefore the aim of this study is to investigate community attitudes towards juvenile offending and the ways that the criminal justice system approach juvenile offending. I am an honours student at Murdoch University and would be grateful for your participation in completing this study.

We encourage any members of this household over the age of 18 years to participate in this survey.

The following questionnaire will require approximately 15-20 minutes. Some questions ask about your attitudes towards the current criminal justice system and other ask about the future of the criminal justice system. The data collected will provide useful information regarding how the criminal justice system can be more effective in dealing with juvenile crime.

To keep this survey anonymous, please do not write your name anywhere on this survey and only answer the specific questions you have been asked. All of your answers will be kept confidential.

If you choose to participate in this study, please answer all questions as honestly as possible and return the questionnaires promptly through the return-paid envelope provided. Your participation is voluntary. You are under no obligation to complete this survey and can withdraw at any time. However, if you do choose to complete this survey you cannot withdraw your consent to participate once you have returned the survey due to the fact that the surveys are anonymous and there is no way to identify and withdraw your completed survey.

We ask that you return your completed surveys by 31 August, 2014.

The completed surveys will be stored in a locked cabinet in a locked room. The surveys and any information on the surveys will not be disclosed to any third parties unless required to do so by law. Once we have completed this research, the analysed information from this research will be published on the Murdoch University website. You will be able to access this feedback within 6-8 months. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Guy Hall, Academic Chair of Criminology and Legal Studies, Murdoch University.

Sincerely,
Guy Hall
Honours Supervisor
(08) 9360 6033

This study has been approved by the Murdoch University Human Research Ethics Committee (Approval [2014/147](#)). If you have any reservation or complaint about the ethical conduct of this research, and wish to talk with an independent person, you may contact Murdoch University's Research Ethics Office (Tel. 08 9360 6677 (for overseas studies, +61 8 9360 6677) or e-mail ethics@murdoch.edu.au). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

Please read the following paragraph and then respond to each approach by circling which response you agree with most. Please circle only one response for each of the four responses.

6. We are faced with many problems in the criminal justice system, none of which can be solved easily or inexpensively. For each of the following approaches, circle whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount.

Police

Too Much Too Little About Right Unsure

Detention

Too Much Too Little About Right Unsure

Youth Crime Prevention Programs

Too Much Too Little About Right Unsure

Offender Rehabilitation Programs

Too Much Too Little About Right Unsure

7. Distribute \$100 between the four approaches used within our criminal justice system in a manner that reflects the relative importance of each approach in our criminal justice system.

_____ Police
 _____ Prisons
 _____ Youth Crime Prevention Programs
 _____ Offender Rehabilitation Programs



Please read the following paragraph and then respond to the 2 questions that follow by circling the amount you think most appropriate.

Currently, in Western Australia juvenile offenders who commit serious crimes, such as robbery, are put in jail for about one year. Suppose Western Australians were asked to vote on a change in the law that would increase the sentence for these sorts of crimes by one additional year, making the average length of jail time two years. The additional year will not only impose more punishment but also reduce juvenile crime by about 30% by keeping juvenile offenders off the street for another year. This program may result in a rise in taxes.

15. What is the maximum amount you are willing to pay for this program to be implemented in Western Australia?

\$0 \$50 \$100 \$150 \$200 \$200+

Why did you choose this amount?

16. What is the minimum amount you are willing to pay for this program to be implemented?

\$0 \$50 \$100 \$150 \$200 \$200+

Why did you choose this amount?

Almost there, we now have a few further demographic questions.

17. Do you believe that juvenile crime is an issue for your suburb? Yes No

18. Have you been a victim of crime in the last twelve months? Yes No

19. If yes, was it personal or property crime? Personal Property

20. What would you rate your fear of crime?

1 2 3 4 5 6
Not Afraid Very Afraid

21. Have you had any personal contact with the criminal justice system?

Offender Victim Jury Duty Witness Staff Member Other

22. On a scale of extremely liberal (1) to extremely conservative (10), please circle your political preference.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Extremely Liberal Extremely Conservative

