

THREE STRIKES LAW POLL March 2018

- CLIENT:** Sensible Sentencing Trust
- POLL DATES:** Mon 26 February to Tue 13 March 2018. The median response was collected on Tue 06 March 2018.
- TARGET POPULATION:** New Zealand adults.
- SAMPLE POPULATION:** New Zealand adults who are contactable on a landline.
- SAMPLE SIZE:** 965 respondents agreed to participate.
- SAMPLE SELECTION:** A random selection of 15,000 nationwide phone numbers.
- SAMPLE ERROR:** Based on this sample of 965 respondents, the maximum sampling error (for a result of 50%) is +/- 3.2%, at the 95% confidence level.
- WEIGHTING:** The results are weighted to the NZ adult population by gender, age and area.
- CODE COMPLIANCE:** This poll was conducted in accordance with the New Zealand Political Polling Code, the Research Association New Zealand Code of Practice and the International Chamber of Commerce/European Society for Opinion and Market Research Code on Market and Social Research.



Since 2010, New Zealand has had a 'Three Strikes' sentencing law for serious violent and sexual offenders who continue to commit offences. This law removes parole eligibility for repeat offenders and imposes the maximum prison term available for the offence committed, for those who offend a third or subsequent time. Do you approve or disapprove of this law?

Three Strikes Law

		Count	Col %
Three Strikes Law	Approve	645	68%
	Disapprove	187	20%
	Unsure/refuse	123	13%
	Total	955	100%

68% of respondents approve of the Three Strikes Law and only 20% disapprove.

Three Strikes Law BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Three Strikes Law	Approve	67%	68%
	Disapprove	18%	21%
	Unsure/refuse	14%	11%
	Total	100%	100%

No significant difference by gender..

Three Strikes Law BY Age Group

		Age Group			
		18-30	31-45	46-60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Three Strikes Law	Approve	62%	74%	71%	63%
	Disapprove	17%	16%	20%	23%
	Unsure/refuse	21%	10%	8%	15%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Those aged 31 to 60 more supportive of the law..

Three Strikes Law BY Area Type

		Area Type					
		Akl	Wlg	Chch	Prov Cities	Towns	Rural
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Three Strikes Law	Approve	63%	57%	79%	72%	71%	68%
	Disapprove	19%	29%	16%	17%	19%	19%
	Unsure/refuse	18%	13%	5%	11%	10%	14%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The lowest level of support (but still a majority) is in Wellington.

Three Strikes Law BY Probed Party Vote (All Voters)

		Probed Party Vote (All Voters)				
		National	Labour	NZ First	Green	Undecided
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Three Strikes Law	Approve	78%	63%	66%	48%	64%
	Disapprove	13%	25%	27%	32%	17%
	Unsure/refuse	9%	12%	6%	20%	18%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Net support by party is National +65%, NZ First +41%, Labour+38% and Greens +16%.

Since the law came into force in June 2010, there have been 9,300 first strike offenders convicted, 257 second strike offenders convicted and two third strike offenders convicted. The Department of Corrections has assessed 85% of the second and third strikers as being at a High or Very High risk of reoffending and on average, these offenders have more than 23 prior convictions.

Does knowing these facts make you more supportive of the law, less supportive or make no difference to your view?

Do facts change view on three strikes?

		Count	Col %
Do facts change view on three strikes?	More supportive	344	36%
	Less supportive	118	12%
	No difference	354	37%
	Unsure/refuse	134	14%
	Total	950	100%

36% of respondents say they are more supportive of the law, after being told the above facts. 12% becomes less supportive and 37% say it makes no difference.

Do facts change view on three strikes? BY Gender

		Gender	
		Female	Male
		Col %	Col %
Do facts change view on three strikes?	More supportive	36%	37%
	Less supportive	13%	12%
	No difference	35%	39%
	Unsure/refuse	16%	12%
	Total	100%	100%

Do facts change view on three strikes? BY Age Group

		Age Group			
		18-30	31-45	46-60	61+
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Do facts change view on three strikes?	More supportive	31%	40%	36%	38%
	Less supportive	11%	14%	13%	12%
	No difference	37%	36%	43%	33%
	Unsure/refuse	21%	11%	9%	18%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Do facts change view on three strikes? BY Area Type

		Area Type					
		Akl	Wlg	Chch	Prov Cities	Towns	Rural
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Do facts change view on three strikes?	More supportive	37%	34%	36%	35%	33%	41%
	Less supportive	11%	13%	20%	11%	18%	7%
	No difference	33%	46%	39%	41%	35%	36%
	Unsure/refuse	19%	7%	5%	13%	14%	16%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Do facts change view on three strikes? BY Probed Party Vote (All Voters)

		Probed Party Vote (All Voters)				
		National	Labour	NZ First	Green	Undecided
		Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %	Col %
Do facts change view on three strikes?	More supportive	44%	33%	52%	16%	29%
	Less supportive	11%	16%	15%	11%	5%
	No difference	36%	39%	21%	39%	44%
	Unsure/refuse	8%	13%	11%	34%	22%
	Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Three Strikes Law BY Do facts change view on three strikes?

		Do facts change view on three strikes?				
		More supportive	Less supportive	No difference	Unsure/refuse	Total
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Three Strikes Law	Approve	47%	9%	37%	6%	100%
	Disapprove	14%	29%	53%	4%	100%
	Unsure/refuse	11%	4%	13%	71%	100%
	Total	36%	12%	37%	14%	100%

Of those who say they approved of the law, 47% become even more supportive of it after being read the selected facts on it. Of those who said they disapproved of the law only 14% become more supportive of it.

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