

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: HIT Strategies – Roshni Nedungadi

DATE: September 24, 2024

SUBJECT: District residents' support for a gun violence reduction plan

Key Findings

1. [District residents strongly support the adoption of a gun violence reduction plan.](#) A strong majority (84%) of D.C. residents support the gun violence reduction plan that has been delivered to the mayor, including 42% of residents who strongly support adoption of the plan.
2. [District residents overwhelmingly support the policies in the gun violence reduction plan.](#) Each component of the plan has the support of at least 75% of D.C. residents, with some elements gaining as high as 90% support, demonstrating near-universal support for the underlying tenets of the plan.
3. [A supermajority of residents want the mayor to prioritize the gun violence reduction plan.](#) More than 9 in 10 residents believe the plan should be a priority for the mayor, with 70% saying it should be a top priority. A majority of residents (58%) also say they would feel more favorable towards the mayor if she were to adopt the gun violence reduction plan.
4. [District residents prefer safety solutions that invest in prevention rather than more punishment.](#) A strong majority (70%) of D.C. residents believe the best way to keep our communities safe is to invest more in prevention and increase funding for programs such as affordable housing, job training, and drug and mental health treatment, rather than invest more in policing and prisons. 75% of residents also believe it is important to reduce the jail and prison population.

Methodology

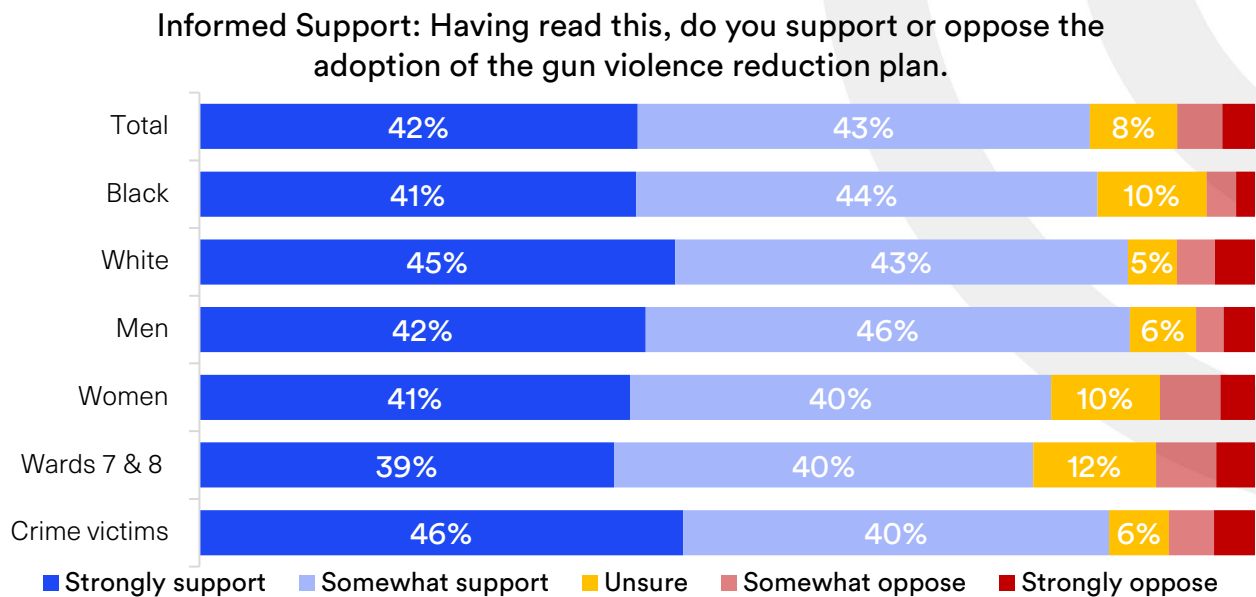
These findings are based on a quantitative survey conducted by HIT Strategies on behalf of Public Welfare Foundation. This survey consisted of 602 adult residents of D.C. The survey was conducted via web panel from May 28 – June 6, 2024 and the overall margin of error is +/- 4%. We described to D.C. residents a gun violence reduction plan that has been delivered to Mayor Muriel Bowser to gauge public opinion and support for the overall plan, as well as its specific components. We also asked how this plan would impact residents' feelings of safety and their feelings towards leaders such as Mayor Muriel Bowser. We showed the following to residents:

Now I'm going to give you some information about the gun violence reduction plan that has been delivered to Mayor Bowser. Please read the description of the plan and answer whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose adoption of the plan.

The plan outlines a violence reduction strategy that uses data to identify the people at highest risk of gun violence, typically young adults, to connect them with resources designed to reduce their likelihood of becoming victims of or committing gun violence. Prevention services will be offered through local, community-based organizations that provide education classes, job training, housing assistance, and addiction or mental health treatment.

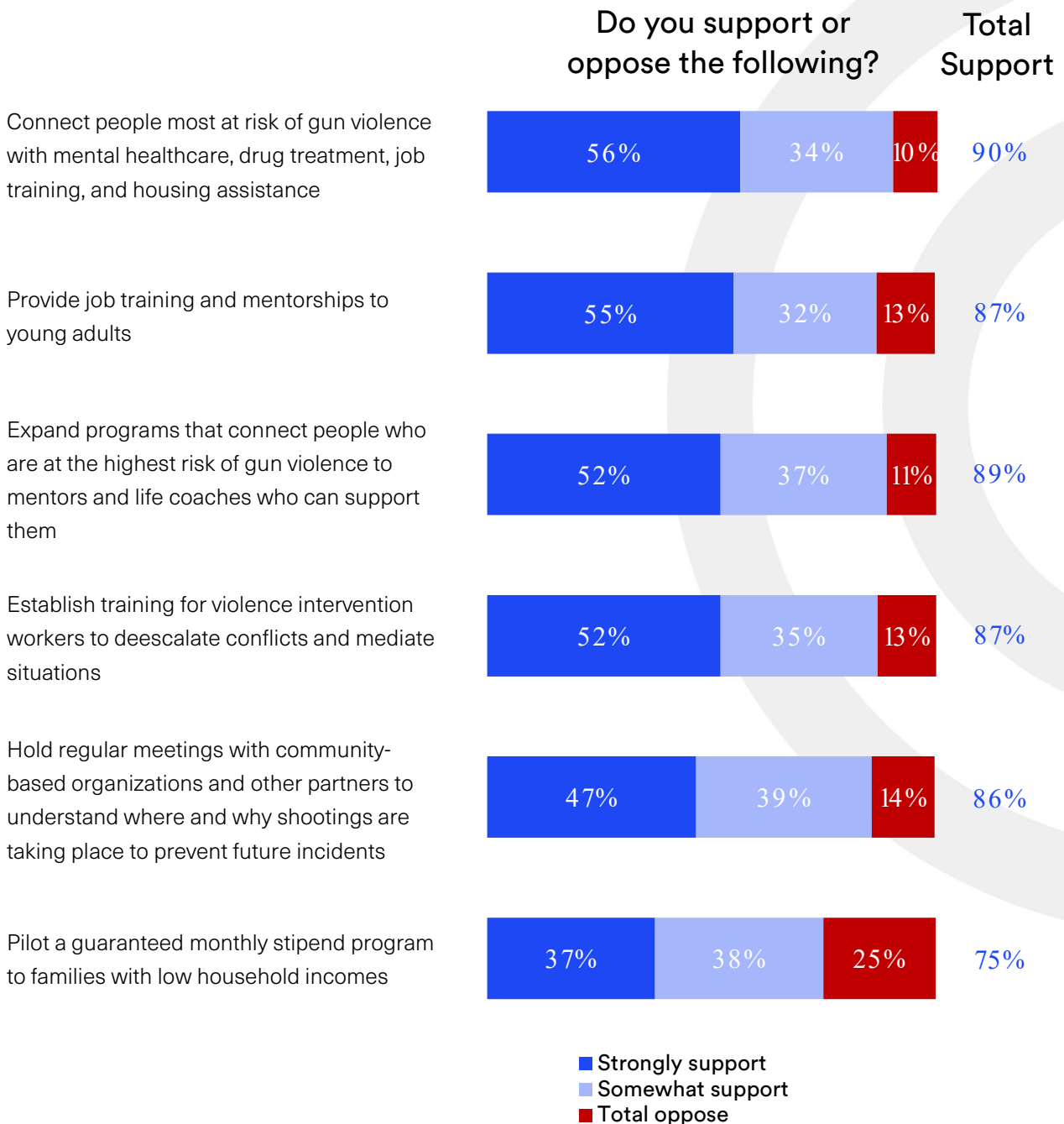
Support for a gun violence reduction plan is extremely high among all demographic groups in D.C.

After reading the above description of the gun violence reduction plan, 84% of residents support the plan. This support is steady across demographic groups, with Black residents (85% support), men (88% support) and women (81% support) all reporting high levels of support for this plan. We also see high levels of support among self-reported victims of crime (86% support) as well as high levels of support for residents in wards 7 & 8 (79%)



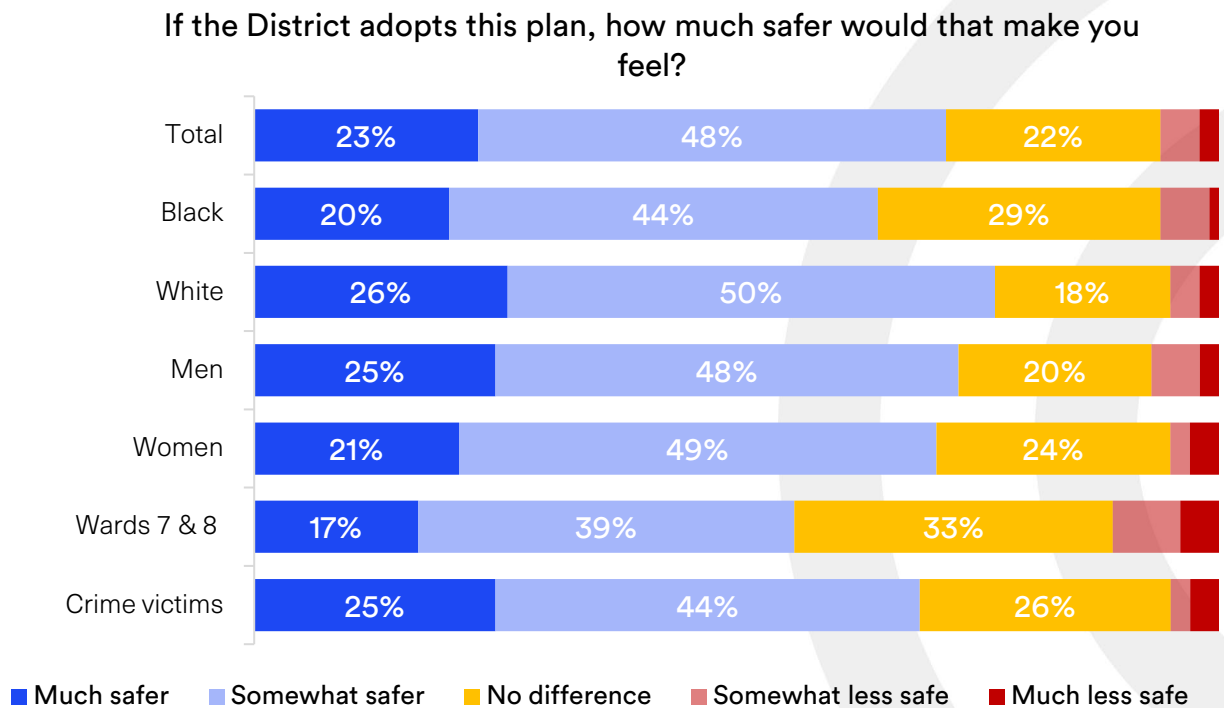
Residents strongly support all components of the comprehensive violence reduction plan.

Super majorities of residents support all of the policies in the gun violence reduction plan that has been delivered to Mayor Bowser. Nine in 10 residents support “connecting people most at risk of gun violence with mental healthcare, drug treatment, job training, and housing assistance,” with 56% saying they strongly support the policy. This support is even higher among Black residents (59% strongly support), Latino residents (61% strongly support) and women (60% strongly support).



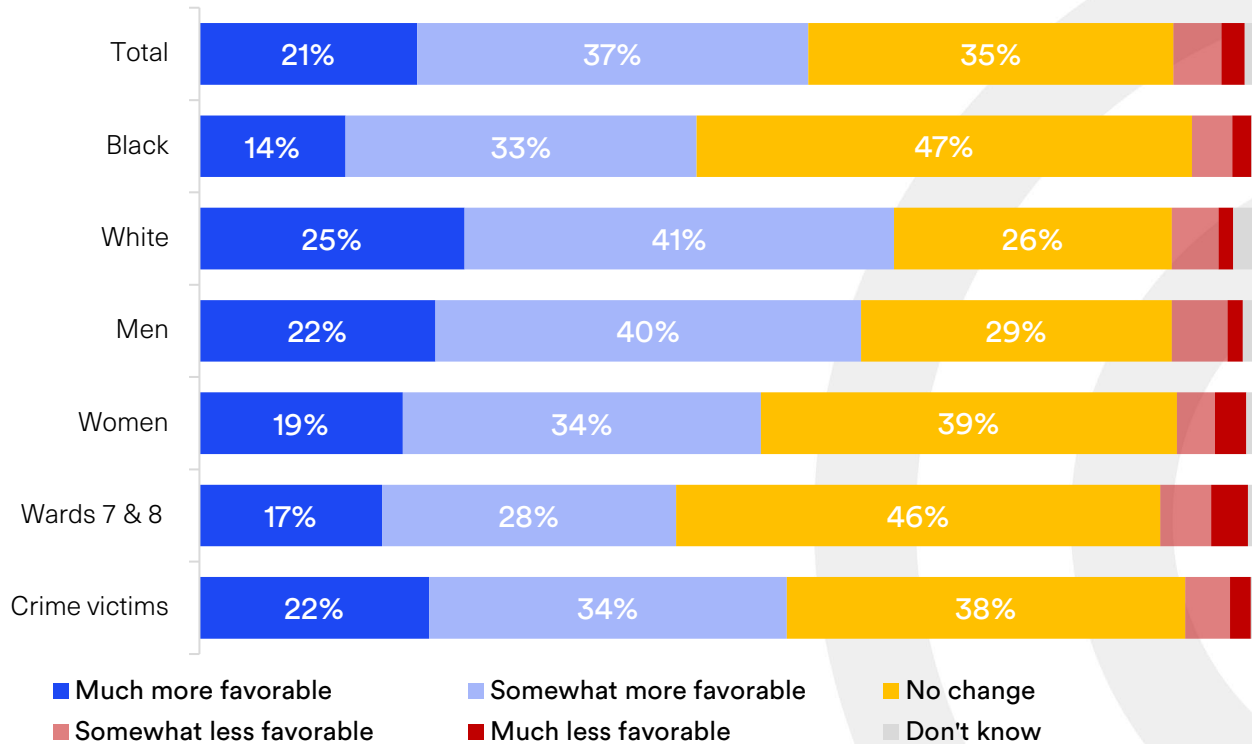
The vast majority of D.C. residents say they would feel safer, and majorities would view the mayor more favorably, if the District adopted the gun violence reduction plan.

After hearing details of the gun violence reduction plan, respondents were asked whether adoption of the plan would make them feel safer in the District. Seven in 10 (71%) of District residents say the plan would make them feel safer, including 64% of Black residents, 76% of white residents, and 69% of self-identified crime victims.



Residents also indicate adoption of the plan would make them feel more favorable towards Mayor Bowser. Only 41% of D.C. residents reported feeling favorably towards the Mayor before hearing about this plan and 58% say they would view her more favorably if she adopted this plan. Additionally, 94% of residents believe that this should be a top priority for the mayor.

Imagine the mayor adopted the gun violence reduction plan. How would your opinion of the mayor change, if at all?



District residents believe the best way to keep communities safe is to invest in prevention, rather than policing and longer jail and prison sentences.

Consistent across demographic groups, D.C. residents prefer investing more in prevention over investing more in police and incarceration.

Which one of these statements comes closer to your view?

The best way to keep our communities safe is to **invest more in prevention** and increase funding for programs such as affordable housing, job training, and drug and mental health treatment.



The best way to keep our communities safe is to **invest more in policing** and increase jail and prison sentences for people who break the law.



	Black	White	Men	Women	Ward 7 & 8	Crime victim
Invest in more prevention	76%	65%	67%	72%	74%	69%
Invest in more policing	24%	35%	33%	28%	26%	31%

A majority of residents (75%), across demographic groups, also believe it is important to reduce the jail and prison population in D.C.

In your opinion, how important is it to reduce the jail and prison population in the District of Columbia?

