

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADA AND UNITED STATES CONCERNED OVER POVERTY

NORTH AMERICAN POLL: CANADA & U.S.

- » Canadians, Americans see poverty as combination of lack of will and chance
- » More Americans (43%) than Canadians (37%) think people don't do enough to get out of poverty
- » 34% of Canadians think poverty is a very serious problem in the country
- » 58% Americans feel the same way about poverty in the U.S.
- » Canadians (46%) more skeptical than Americans (37%) about government anti-poverty efforts

For this North American study, Angus Reid Strategies conducted online surveys among randomly selected, representative samples of adults in two countries:

United States – 1,000 adults, conducted from Jul. 26 to Aug. 1, 2007

Canada – 1,067 adults, conducted from Aug. 21 to Aug. 23, 2007

The margin of error for the total sample in each country is +/-3.1 %, 19 times out of 20. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of each country. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

[VANCOUVER – Sept. 5, 2007] – Poverty is a pressing issue for people in North America, according to a bi-national survey conducted by the Angus Reid Global Monitor in partnership with Angus Reid Strategies.

The online survey of representative national samples of adults in Canada and the United States—two nations belonging to the group of eight rich industrialized countries—found that people are concerned about national poverty levels and doubt the efficiency of government anti-poverty programs.

Thirty-four per cent of respondents in Canada think poverty is a very serious issue in their own country, while 58 per cent per cent of people in the U.S. think the same. Overall, 80 per cent of Canadians say poverty is at least a moderately serious problem, and the number is higher in the U.S. (89%).

More Canadians than Americans think poverty is caused mainly by circumstances that escape people's control. Thirty-seven per cent of those surveyed in Canada think people are not doing enough to get themselves out of poverty, while 51 per cent think external factors cause people to be poor. In contrast, 43 per cent of Americans think poverty is a result of lack of will, and 47 per cent think poor people cannot alleviate their situation.



Confidence in government-sponsored anti-poverty efforts is clearly low in both countries. In Canada, 46 per cent of respondents say such programs have no impact on poor people's lives, and 18 per cent think they actually make things worse. In the U.S., 37 per cent of respondents also think these programs make no difference, while 32 per cent think they exacerbate the living conditions of the poor.

Male respondents (28%) and those aged 35 to 54 are less inclined to believe that poverty is a serious problem in Canada. In the U.S., men (50%) and those aged 18 to 34 are also less prone to think poverty is a serious national issue.

Curiously, more Canadian men (24%) than women (15%) think that government efforts to combat poverty have a positive impact on poor people's lives.



OVERALL RESULTS POVERTY ISSUE

In your view, is poverty in Canada / America a very serious problem, moderately serious, not too serious, or not a problem?

	 CAN	 USA
Very serious	34%	58%
Moderately serious	46%	31%
Not too serious	16%	8%
Not a problem	2%	1%
Not sure	2%	3%
Very/moderately serious	80%	89%
Not too serious/ Not a problem	19%	9%



OVERALL RESULTS CAUSES OF POVERTY

In your view, which is the bigger cause of poverty in Canada / America today?

	 CAN	 USA
People are not doing enough to help themselves out of poverty	37%	43%
Circumstances beyond their control cause people to be poor	51%	47%
Not sure	11%	10%

OVERALL RESULTS POVERTY & GOV'T

Do you think government programs that try to improve the condition of poor people in Canada / America are making things better, making things worse, or having no impact either way?

	 CAN	 USA
Making things better	19%	20%
Making things worse	18%	32%
Having no impact either way	46%	37%
Not sure	17%	11%



CANADA THE POVERTY ISSUE

In your view, is poverty in Canada a very serious problem, moderately serious, not too serious, or not a problem?

	GENDER		AGE		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Very serious	28%	39%	36%	30%	38%
Moderately serious	43%	48%	44%	46%	48%
Not too serious	24%	10%	16%	20%	12%
Not a problem	4%	1%	1%	3%	2%
Not sure	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%
Very/moderately serious	72%	87%	80%	76%	85%
Not too serious/ Not a problem	27%	10%	17%	23%	14%



CANADA CAUSES OF POVERTY

In your view, which is the bigger cause of poverty in Canada today?

	GENDER		AGE		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
People are not doing enough to help themselves out of poverty	46%	29%	37%	37%	38%
Circumstances beyond their control cause people to be poor	45%	57%	48%	54%	50%
Not sure	9%	14%	14%	9%	12%



CANADA POVERTY & GOV'T

Do you think government programs that try to improve the condition of poor people in Canada are making things better, making things worse, or having no impact either way?

	GENDER		AGE		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Making things better	24%	15%	20%	16%	23%
Making things worse	19%	17%	16%	20%	17%
Having no impact either way	45%	47%	46%	47%	46%
Not sure	13%	20%	19%	17%	14%



UNITED STATES THE POVERTY ISSUE

In your view, is poverty in America a very serious problem, moderately serious, not too serious, or not a problem?

	GENDER		AGE		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Very serious	50%	61%	51%	60%	62%
Moderately serious	33%	30%	34%	31%	27%
Not too serious	13%	6%	10%	6%	8%
Not a problem	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%
Not sure	4%	3%	5%	4%	1%
Very/moderately serious	83%	91%	85%	91%	89%
Not too serious/ Not a problem	5%	7%	11%	6%	10%



UNITED STATES CAUSES OF POVERTY

In your view, which is the bigger cause of poverty in America today?

	GENDER		AGE		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
People are not doing enough to help themselves out of poverty	46%	42%	44%	41%	47%
Circumstances beyond their control cause people to be poor	45%	48%	45%	49%	46%
Not sure	9%	10%	11%	10%	7%



UNITED STATES POVERTY & GOV'T

Do you think government programs that try to improve the condition of poor people in America are making things better, making things worse, or having no impact either way?

	GENDER		AGE		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Making things better	19%	21%	22%	18%	23%
Making things worse	34%	31%	30%	33%	33%
Having no impact either way	36%	38%	37%	39%	35%
Not sure	11%	11%	12%	9%	9%

ABOUT THE ANGUS REID GLOBAL MONITOR

The **Angus Reid Global Monitor** (angus-reid.com) is an independent research group that analyzes worldwide public opinion, and tracks elections, leadership races and other democratic processes around the globe. It is a non-partisan institute supported by Angus Reid Strategies, and provides high-quality analysis and research for public dissemination and benefit.

The core of the Global Monitor's work is maintaining and updating the **world's largest online public opinion database every day**, which includes more than 16,000 surveys from every continent, on topics ranging from approval ratings, voting intention studies, and reviews of public sentiment on a wide array of global issues. Entries go beyond simply recording the numbers and percentages: each poll is located, translated if necessary, and annotated with a brief analytic and contextual review.

The Global Monitor's research is guided by four principles: insight, fairness, accuracy and immediacy. The website receives more than one million page views each month, and has been cited by the Washington Post, the Christian Science Monitor, the Economist, the Council on Foreign Relations, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), the UK Social Science Information Gateway, and more.

For more information, please visit the Global Monitor at angus-reid.com.

ABOUT ANGUS REID STRATEGIES

Angus Reid Strategies is a North American full-service polling and market research firm which is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995. Located in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal, our team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research.

Angus Reid Strategies polls in Canada are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum online panel (www.angusreidforum.com), which is recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panel is maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. This premier online survey platform presents respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Angus Reid Strategies has been successful in predicting the outcome of this year's provincial elections in Quebec and Manitoba.

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found in our white paper.

For even more information, please visit angusreidstrategies.com.