



ILLEGAL DRUGS

DRUGS A NATIONAL PROBLEM—CANADIANS WOULD MIX GRIT & TORY POLICIES

Most regions see drug abuse as a serious national problem; Ontario, Quebec think issue is confined to specific areas & people

Canadians favour proposed Conservative anti-drug measures, but most do not want to scrap Liberals' pot decriminalization legislation, or safe-injection sites

Over half (55%) support legalizing marijuana, but almost no one wants other drugs made legal

From June 15 to 18, 2007, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of 1,028 adult Canadians. The margin of error for the total sample 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 Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

Illegal drugs

**Contact: Craig Worden, Vice President, Public Affairs
416-644-4038 or craig.worden@angus-reid.com**

**Public Release:
National Public Opinion Poll**

[VANCOUVER - June 27, 2007] – Most regions of Canada see drug abuse as a nationwide problem, and most Canadians favour only half of the Conservative government's anti-drug measures, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

The online survey of a representative national sample shows that over half of respondents from every province but Quebec and Ontario believe Canada has a serious drug abuse problem affecting the whole country.

In Ontario and Quebec, roughly 40 per cent believe that Canada's drug problem is confined to specific areas and people, while about 35 per cent think it is a serious national issue.

Canadians, however, only support two of the Conservative government's strategies to combat drug abuse.

Seven-in-ten (71%) agree with handing out mandatory minimum prison sentences and large fines to marijuana grow operators and drug dealers. As well, eight-in-ten (86%) support the introduction of a National Anti-Drug Strategy, including a national awareness campaign aimed at discouraging young people from using drugs. (Both measures were found in the last federal budget.)

But over half of Canadians oppose the loss of marijuana decriminalization legislation (52%), and harm-reduction strategies such as safe-injection sites (55%). The Conservatives have indicated that they will virtually abandon these measures, originally introduced by the former Liberal government, as part of their drug strategy.

And over half of Canadians (55%) support legalizing marijuana altogether. The same is not true of other illegal drugs, with roughly nine-in-ten opposing the legalization of crack cocaine, powder cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, and crystal meth.

Canadians with lower incomes and those with less educational years are more likely to feel that drug abuse is a serious national problem, not a concern localized to specific areas. Those with higher incomes and more education are more likely to oppose the loss of the Liberal programs of pot decriminalization and harm-reduction.

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Contact: Craig Worden, Vice President, Public Affairs
416-644-4038 or craig.worden@angus-reid.com

Most regions see drug abuse as a serious national problem; Ontario, Quebec think issue is confined to specific areas & people

Q. Which one of the following statements comes closest to your view?

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Con	Lib	NDP
Canada has a serious drug abuse problem and it affects the whole country	43%	52%	56%	57%	38%	35%	53%	47%	39%	43%
Canada's drug abuse problem is confined to specific areas and people	39%	37%	31%	38%	43%	40%	28%	42%	48%	35%
Canada does not have a serious drug abuse problem	11%	8%	9%	2%	12%	15%	12%	7%	9%	14%
Not sure	6%	4%	5%	4%	6%	9%	7%	4%	5%	8%

	Age			Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College or Tech schl	Univ+
Canada has a serious drug abuse problem and it affects the whole country	43%	35%	40%	55%	49%	38%	33%	54%	43%	31%
Canada's drug abuse problem is confined to specific areas and people	39%	43%	42%	30%	32%	44%	47%	32%	38%	46%
Canada does not have a serious drug abuse problem	11%	14%	12%	9%	11%	12%	16%	7%	11%	16%
Not sure	6%	8%	6%	6%	8%	6%	5%	6%	7%	6%

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416-644-4038 or craig.worden@angus-reid.com

Canadians favour proposed Conservative anti-drug measures -- Prison sentences and large fines for grow-operators and drug dealers

*Q. Do you support or oppose each of these measures proposed by the federal government to deal with drug abuse?
- Ensuring mandatory minimum prison sentences and large fines for marijuana grow operators and drug dealers*

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly support	50%	45%	48%	46%	51%	57%	44%	69%	41%	41%
Moderately support	21%	32%	18%	23%	19%	20%	17%	9%	27%	21%
Moderately oppose	11%	11%	10%	17%	11%	9%	15%	11%	14%	12%
Strongly oppose	13%	10%	16%	11%	14%	11%	14%	8%	16%	17%
Not sure	5%	1%	7%	4%	6%	3%	11%	3%	1%	8%
(net) Support	71%	78%	67%	69%	69%	76%	60%	78%	69%	63%
(net) Oppose	24%	21%	26%	27%	25%	20%	29%	19%	30%	29%

	Age			Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College or Tech schl	Univ+
Strongly support	50%	36%	52%	62%	52%	47%	55%	59%	50%	42%
Moderately support	21%	29%	18%	16%	17%	26%	15%	14%	21%	28%
Moderately oppose	11%	12%	12%	8%	8%	15%	11%	9%	13%	11%
Strongly oppose	13%	13%	14%	10%	15%	9%	13%	12%	13%	12%
Not sure	5%	10%	4%	3%	8%	3%	5%	5%	4%	7%
(net) Support	71%	66%	70%	78%	69%	73%	70%	73%	70%	69%
(net) Oppose	24%	25%	27%	19%	23%	24%	25%	22%	26%	24%

Canadians favour proposed Conservative anti-drug measures -- National anti-drug strategy

Q. Do you support or oppose each of these measures proposed by the federal government to deal with drug abuse?
- Introducing a National Anti-Drug Strategy, including a nationwide awareness campaign to discourage young Canadians from using drugs

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly support	56%	55%	54%	63%	49%	64%	61%	62%	52%	50%
Moderately support	31%	33%	29%	26%	37%	22%	30%	28%	36%	38%
Moderately oppose	6%	4%	5%	6%	8%	7%	1%	7%	6%	5%
Strongly oppose	4%	6%	6%	2%	3%	3%	5%	2%	6%	4%
Not sure	4%	1%	6%	3%	4%	5%	3%	2%	1%	3%
(net) Support	86%	89%	83%	89%	86%	86%	90%	89%	87%	87%
(net) Oppose	10%	10%	11%	8%	11%	9%	6%	8%	11%	9%

	Age			Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College or Tech schl	Univ+
Strongly support	56%	47%	56%	65%	58%	59%	46%	66%	54%	47%
Moderately support	31%	36%	32%	23%	27%	31%	35%	21%	33%	38%
Moderately oppose	6%	6%	7%	5%	7%	4%	12%	7%	5%	6%
Strongly oppose	4%	4%	3%	5%	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	4%
Not sure	4%	7%	3%	2%	5%	2%	3%	4%	3%	4%
(net) Support	86%	83%	87%	88%	85%	90%	82%	87%	87%	85%
(net) Oppose	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	8%	15%	9%	10%	11%

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Most do not want to scrap Liberals' pot decriminalization legislation

Q. Do you support or oppose each of these measures proposed by the federal government to deal with drug abuse?
- Scrapping the previous government's marijuana decriminalization legislation

	Total	Region						Vote in next federal election		
		BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly support	24%	16%	25%	27%	23%	28%	19%	39%	16%	11%
Moderately support	15%	15%	15%	16%	14%	13%	18%	20%	10%	19%
Moderately oppose	17%	26%	12%	25%	16%	18%	9%	11%	23%	20%
Strongly oppose	35%	41%	35%	26%	37%	32%	37%	25%	46%	41%
Not sure	9%	2%	13%	6%	9%	8%	17%	5%	5%	9%
(net) Support	38%	31%	40%	43%	38%	41%	37%	59%	26%	31%
(net) Oppose	52%	67%	46%	51%	53%	51%	46%	36%	69%	61%

	Total	Age			Income			Education		
		18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College or Tech schl	Univ+
Strongly support	24%	25%	20%	28%	20%	28%	26%	30%	23%	18%
Moderately support	15%	16%	13%	16%	17%	14%	11%	17%	14%	13%
Moderately oppose	17%	16%	22%	11%	13%	22%	22%	11%	18%	23%
Strongly oppose	35%	28%	38%	38%	38%	32%	34%	32%	35%	39%
Not sure	9%	15%	7%	7%	13%	4%	7%	9%	10%	8%
(net) Support	38%	41%	33%	45%	37%	42%	37%	47%	37%	31%
(net) Oppose	52%	44%	60%	49%	51%	54%	57%	44%	53%	61%

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Most do not want to scrap Liberals' harm-reduction strategies

Q. Do you support or oppose each of these measures proposed by the federal government to deal with drug abuse?
- Eliminating "harm reduction" programs, such as supervised injection sites and needle-exchange programs

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly support	23%	21%	25%	19%	25%	23%	21%	36%	11%	24%
Moderately support	14%	14%	20%	8%	14%	13%	17%	17%	13%	10%
Moderately oppose	19%	19%	18%	20%	24%	13%	15%	22%	22%	17%
Strongly oppose	36%	42%	24%	44%	33%	41%	39%	19%	51%	47%
Not sure	7%	4%	11%	9%	4%	11%	8%	6%	3%	2%
(net) Support	37%	35%	46%	27%	39%	36%	38%	54%	24%	34%
(net) Oppose	55%	61%	43%	64%	57%	53%	54%	41%	73%	64%

	Age				Income			Education		
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College or Tech schl	Univ+
Strongly support	23%	25%	21%	25%	21%	25%	25%	27%	23%	20%
Moderately support	14%	14%	15%	14%	15%	15%	12%	14%	16%	12%
Moderately oppose	19%	18%	21%	16%	15%	21%	23%	19%	15%	23%
Strongly oppose	36%	32%	37%	40%	39%	35%	35%	32%	39%	39%
Not sure	7%	11%	6%	5%	10%	4%	5%	8%	8%	6%
(net) Support	37%	39%	36%	39%	36%	40%	37%	42%	39%	32%
(net) Oppose	55%	50%	58%	56%	54%	57%	58%	50%	54%	62%

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Most support legalizing marijuana

Q. Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs?
- Marijuana

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly support	29%	34%	26%	21%	30%	25%	37%	22%	34%	36%
Moderately support	27%	27%	18%	30%	29%	26%	25%	18%	34%	35%
Moderately oppose	15%	18%	20%	8%	14%	17%	11%	20%	13%	9%
Strongly oppose	26%	20%	29%	33%	25%	28%	25%	38%	16%	18%
Not sure	3%	1%	7%	8%	2%	4%	3%	2%	3%	1%
(net) Support	55%	61%	44%	51%	59%	51%	61%	39%	68%	71%
(net) Oppose	41%	38%	49%	41%	38%	45%	36%	59%	29%	27%

	Age			Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College or Tech schl	Univ+
Strongly support	29%	24%	32%	28%	35%	25%	22%	35%	30%	21%
Moderately support	27%	32%	27%	22%	27%	27%	28%	21%	25%	35%
Moderately oppose	15%	18%	13%	15%	11%	16%	24%	13%	12%	21%
Strongly oppose	26%	21%	25%	32%	22%	30%	24%	28%	30%	20%
Not sure	3%	5%	3%	3%	5%	1%	1%	3%	4%	3%
(net) Support	55%	56%	59%	49%	62%	53%	51%	56%	55%	55%
(net) Oppose	41%	39%	38%	48%	33%	46%	48%	41%	41%	41%

Nine-in-ten oppose legalizing crack cocaine

Q. Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs?
- Crack cocaine

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly support	6%	9%	3%	1%	5%	12%	2%	5%	4%	10%
Moderately support	1%	3%	3%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%
Moderately oppose	2%	3%	5%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Strongly oppose	90%	86%	89%	96%	93%	84%	96%	93%	93%	86%
Not sure	2%	0%	0%	3%	1%	3%	1%	0%	1%	0%
(net) Support	7%	11%	6%	1%	5%	12%	2%	5%	5%	11%
(net) Oppose	91%	89%	94%	96%	94%	84%	97%	94%	95%	88%

	Age			Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College or Tech schl	Univ+
Strongly support	6%	3%	6%	11%	8%	5%	7%	8%	4%	7%
Moderately support	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Moderately oppose	2%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	3%	1%	1%	3%
Strongly oppose	90%	92%	90%	86%	88%	93%	87%	88%	93%	88%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%	2%
(net) Support	7%	4%	6%	12%	10%	5%	9%	9%	5%	8%
(net) Oppose	91%	93%	92%	87%	89%	95%	90%	89%	94%	91%

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Nine-in-ten oppose legalizing powder cocaine

Q. Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs?
- Powder cocaine

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly support	6%	9%	4%	1%	4%	12%	2%	5%	4%	11%
Moderately support	1%	4%	3%	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%	3%
Moderately oppose	4%	3%	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%	1%	6%	2%
Strongly oppose	87%	84%	88%	91%	89%	83%	95%	93%	88%	84%
Not sure	1%	0%	0%	3%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%
(net) Support	8%	13%	7%	2%	6%	12%	2%	6%	5%	13%
(net) Oppose	91%	87%	93%	95%	93%	86%	97%	94%	94%	86%

	Age			Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College or Tech schl	Univ+
Strongly support	6%	2%	6%	11%	8%	5%	7%	7%	4%	7%
Moderately support	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Moderately oppose	4%	2%	6%	2%	3%	3%	7%	4%	2%	6%
Strongly oppose	87%	93%	86%	84%	85%	91%	83%	86%	91%	84%
Not sure	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%
(net) Support	8%	4%	7%	13%	10%	6%	10%	9%	6%	8%
(net) Oppose	91%	95%	92%	86%	88%	94%	89%	90%	93%	90%

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Nine-in-ten oppose legalizing ecstasy

Q. Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs?
- Ecstasy

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly support	6%	8%	4%	1%	5%	11%	3%	5%	4%	10%
Moderately support	2%	5%	3%	2%	1%	2%	0%	2%	2%	1%
Moderately oppose	5%	7%	5%	3%	6%	5%	4%	5%	5%	8%
Strongly oppose	85%	80%	88%	91%	87%	81%	91%	88%	88%	81%
Not sure	1%	0%	0%	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
(net) Support	8%	13%	7%	3%	6%	13%	3%	7%	6%	11%
(net) Oppose	91%	87%	93%	94%	93%	86%	96%	93%	93%	89%

	Age			Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College or Tech schl	Univ+
Strongly support	6%	3%	6%	10%	9%	5%	6%	8%	4%	7%
Moderately support	2%	3%	1%	3%	2%	1%	4%	1%	2%	2%
Moderately oppose	5%	6%	6%	4%	3%	7%	7%	4%	3%	9%
Strongly oppose	85%	88%	85%	83%	85%	88%	81%	85%	89%	82%
Not sure	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
(net) Support	8%	6%	7%	13%	10%	6%	10%	9%	7%	9%
(net) Oppose	91%	93%	92%	87%	89%	94%	88%	89%	93%	90%

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Nine-in-ten oppose legalizing heroin

Q. Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs?
- Heroin

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly support	7%	9%	4%	1%	5%	12%	1%	5%	6%	10%
Moderately support	2%	5%	3%	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Moderately oppose	3%	6%	5%	3%	3%	1%	3%	3%	4%	4%
Strongly oppose	86%	79%	87%	91%	89%	81%	93%	90%	87%	84%
Not sure	2%	0%	0%	3%	1%	4%	2%	0%	1%	0%
(net) Support	9%	15%	7%	3%	7%	14%	2%	7%	8%	12%
(net) Oppose	89%	85%	93%	94%	92%	82%	96%	93%	91%	87%

	Age			Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College or Tech schl	Univ+
Strongly support	7%	2%	6%	12%	9%	5%	7%	8%	4%	7%
Moderately support	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%	3%	4%	2%	2%
Moderately oppose	3%	1%	4%	3%	2%	3%	5%	2%	2%	6%
Strongly oppose	86%	92%	86%	80%	83%	91%	84%	84%	90%	84%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%	2%
(net) Support	9%	4%	8%	16%	13%	6%	10%	12%	6%	9%
(net) Oppose	89%	92%	91%	84%	85%	94%	89%	86%	93%	89%

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Nine-in-ten oppose legalizing meth

Q. Do you support or oppose the legalization of each of the following drugs?
- Methamphetamine or "crystal meth"

	Region							Vote in next federal election		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ONT	PQ	ATL	Con	Lib	NDP
Strongly support	6%	9%	3%	1%	5%	12%	2%	5%	4%	10%
Moderately support	1%	1%	3%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Moderately oppose	2%	3%	5%	0%	2%	3%	1%	1%	3%	2%
Strongly oppose	89%	87%	89%	96%	92%	81%	96%	93%	92%	86%
Not sure	1%	0%	0%	3%	1%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
(net) Support	7%	10%	6%	1%	5%	13%	2%	5%	5%	11%
(net) Oppose	91%	90%	94%	96%	94%	84%	97%	94%	94%	88%

	Age			Income			Education			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+	<\$50K	\$50-99K	\$100K+	HS or less	College or Tech schl	Univ+
Strongly support	6%	3%	6%	11%	8%	5%	7%	8%	4%	7%
Moderately support	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Moderately oppose	2%	1%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%
Strongly oppose	89%	92%	90%	86%	86%	93%	87%	87%	92%	88%
Not sure	1%	3%	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%
(net) Support	7%	4%	6%	12%	9%	5%	9%	9%	5%	8%
(net) Oppose	91%	93%	92%	88%	89%	95%	90%	89%	94%	91%

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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 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: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=37>

In Manitoba: <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=news&newsid=56>

More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF_WHITE_PAPER.pdf

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
www.angusreidstrategies.com**

Illegal drugs

**Contact: Craig Worden, Vice President, Public Affairs
416-644-4038 or craig.worden@angus-reid.com**