



Canadian Attitudes toward Health Issues

SURVEY FINDINGS

EKOS RESEARCH ASSOCIATES INC.

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EKOS RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Ottawa Office

359 Kent Street, Suite 300
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 0R6
Tel: (613) 235 7215
Fax: (613) 235 8498
E-mail: pobox@ekos.com

Toronto Office

51 Wolseley Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5T 1A4
Tel: (416) 598 8002
Fax: (416) 533-4713
E-mail: toronto@ekos.com

Winnipeg Office

7 Prominence Point
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3Y 0A9
Tel: (204) 221-9923
E-mail: winnipeg@ekos.com

Edmonton Office

11412 67 St.
Edmonton, Alberta T5B 1L4
Tel: (855) 288-4933

www.ekos.com

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1. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) commissioned EKOS Research Associates to conduct a survey of Canadians' views on health issues. This survey was conducted using a hybrid methodology (telephone/online) using EKOS' probability-based research panel, Probit. Our panel offers complete coverage of the Canadian population (i.e., Internet, phone, cell phone), random recruitment (in other words, participants are recruited randomly, they do not opt themselves into our panel), and equal probability sampling. All respondents to our panel are recruited by telephone using random digit dialling and are confirmed by live interviewers.

The field dates for this survey were November 15-21, 2016. In total, a random sample of 1,033 Canadian adults aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error for a survey of this size is +/- 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Please note that the margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e., error margins for sub-groups such as region, sex, and age). All the data have been statistically weighted by age, gender, and region to ensure the sample's composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.

2. OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

Health Care as a Priority

Respondents were asked to rate the priority of a number of policy areas for the federal government over the next five years. Health care is identified as a top federal priority by the majority of Canadians (87 per cent), along with managing the economy (85 per cent). The environment (68%) and national debt (58%) are seen as lower level priorities for the federal government. Tracking reveals that while health care is still a top priority for the federal government, its importance is down somewhat over the past decade.

Canadians were also asked if they would like to see the federal government increase its involvement, maintain its involvement, reduce its involvement, or eliminate its involvement altogether in the area of health care. Results reveal that most Canadians would like to see the federal government increase its involvement in health care in the future (56 per cent), and only 10 per cent feel the federal government should reduce or eliminate its involvement in health care. Tracking reveals that the proportion of Canadians who prefer more federal government involvement in health care is down somewhat over the past few years.

Views on the Quality of Health Care

Canadians were asked whether they believe that the quality of health care in Canada has improved, deteriorated, or stayed the same over the last two years. The plurality (46 per cent) say they perceive no recent change in the quality of health care. Almost four in ten (37 per cent) believe the system has deteriorated during this period, and only one in ten (9 per cent) believe that health care in the country has improved over the past two years. Tracking reveals that an increasing proportion of Canadians feel that health care has deteriorated over the past two years (from 29 per cent in 2012 to 37 per cent currently).

Access to Prescription Drugs

When asked if, in the past year, there was a time they decided not to fill a prescription because of the cost, most Canadians (78%) indicated this was not the case. However, a significant minority of Canadians (21%) said this had occurred, particularly those under 35 years of age (26 per cent), earning less than \$40,000 in annual household income (35%), those with high school education or less (28%), and Atlantic Province residents (38%). Tracking reveals that these results have remained largely stable since we last asked this question in 2013.

Finally, when asked if they support a universal public drug plan to ensure that all Canadians are covered for necessary prescription drugs, more than three-quarters (77%) support this idea, and fewer than one in seven (15%) are opposed. Tracking reveals that these results have remained largely stable since 2013.

3. DETAILED FINDINGS

3.1 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

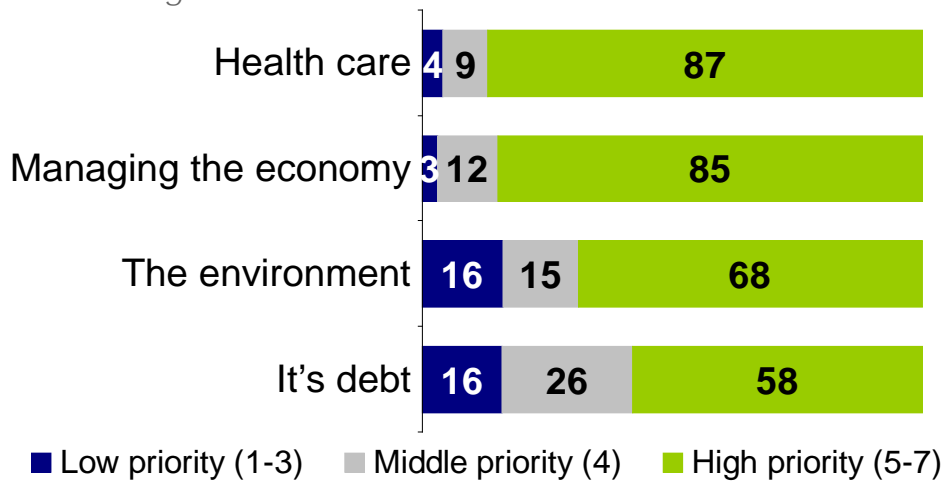
Respondents were first asked to rate the priority of a number of policy areas for the federal government over the next five years. Health care is identified as a top federal priority by the majority of Canadians (87 per cent), along with managing the economy (85 per cent). The environment (68%) and national debt (58%) are seen as lower level priorities for the federal government.

- Health care is seen as particularly important to B.C. residents (92 per cent), women (91 per cent), those 65 years and older (91 per cent), and those with less educational attainment.

Tracking reveals that while health care is still a top priority for the federal government, its importance is down somewhat over the past decade.

Federal government priorities

Q. Canada is facing a series of difficult challenges. Thinking not just of today but over the next five years, what priority should THE FEDERAL government place on each of the following areas?

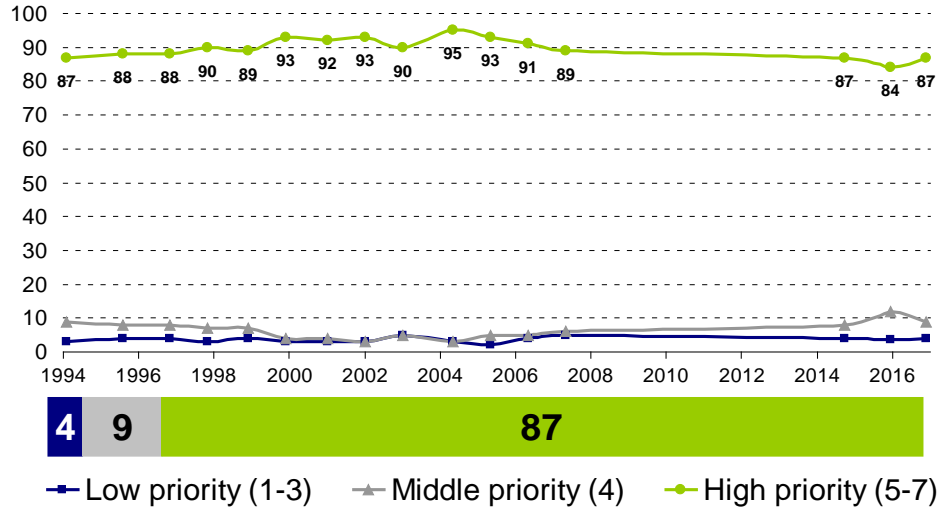


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BASE: Canadians; November 16-21, 2016, n=1,033, MOE +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20

Tracking health care

Q. Canada is facing a series of difficult challenges. Thinking not just of today but over the next five years, what priority should the federal government place on each of the following areas?



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3.2 QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE

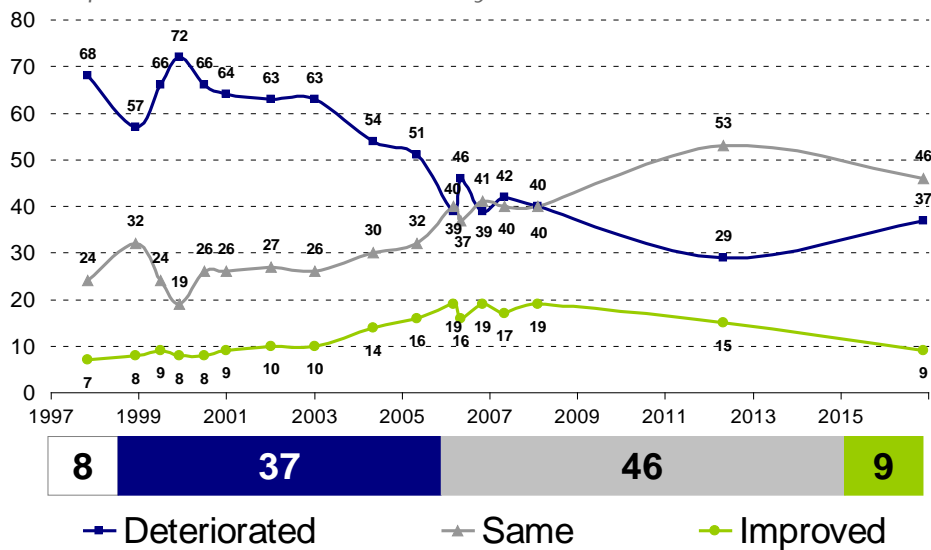
Canadians were asked whether they believe that the quality of health care in Canada has improved, deteriorated, or stayed the same over the last two years. The plurality (46 per cent) say they perceive no recent change in the quality of health care. Almost four in ten (37 per cent) believe the system has deteriorated during this period, and only one in ten (9 per cent) believe that health care in the country has improved over the past two years.

- Quebec residents (46 per cent), women (45 per cent), those with less educational attainment, and lower income earners are most likely to feel the quality of health care has deteriorated in the last two years.

Tracking reveals that an increasing proportion of Canadians feel that health care has deteriorated over the past two years (from 29 per cent in 2012 to 37 per cent currently).

Perceived change in quality of health care

Q. Has the quality of health care over the past two years improved, deteriorated, or stayed the same?



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3.3 FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH CARE

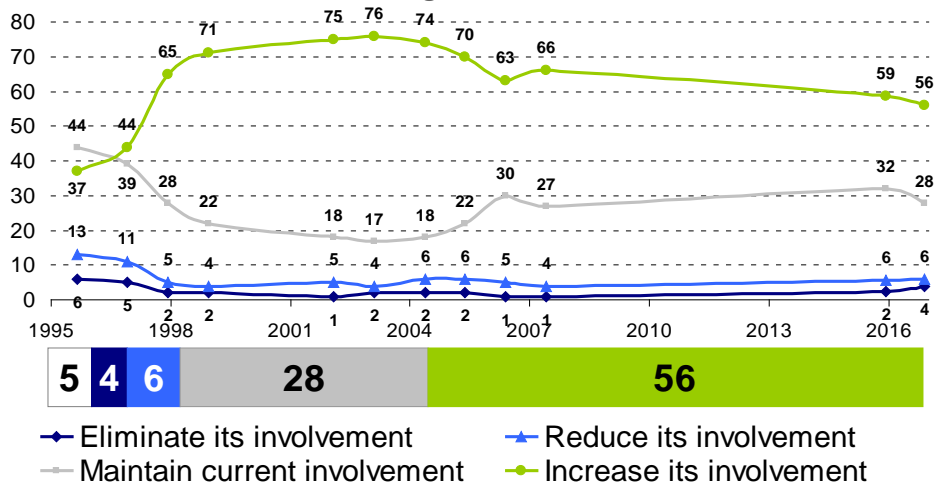
Canadians were asked if they would like to see the federal government increase its involvement, maintain its involvement, reduce its involvement, or eliminate its involvement altogether in the area of health care. Results reveal that most Canadians would like to see the federal government increase its involvement in health care in the future (56 per cent), and only 10 per cent feel the federal government should reduce or eliminate its involvement in health care.

- Atlantic Province (68 per cent), Quebec (65 per cent) and B.C. (65 per cent) residents, as well as those under 35 years of age (67 per cent) are most likely to want to see the federal government increase its involvement in health care in the future.

Tracking reveals that the proportion of Canadians who prefer more federal government involvement in health care is down somewhat over the past few years.

Level of involvement: Health Care

Q. Overall, in the area of health care, what would you like to see the federal government do in the future? Would you like to see it increase its involvement, maintain its involvement, reduce its involvement, or eliminate its involvement altogether?



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3.4 ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

When asked if, in the past year, there was a time they decided not to fill a prescription because of the cost, most Canadians (78%) indicated this was not the case. However, a significant minority of Canadians (21%) said this had occurred, particularly those under 35 years of age (26 per cent), earning less than \$40,000 in annual household income (35%), those with high school education or less (28%), and Atlantic Province residents (38%).

Tracking reveals that these results have remained largely stable since we last asked this question in 2013.

Access to prescription drugs

Q. In the past year, was there a time you decided not to fill a prescription because of the cost?

November 2016



BASE: Canadians; November 16-21, 2016, n=1,033, MOE +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20

May 2013



BASE: Canadians; May 2-8, 2013, n=1,041, MOE +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20

DK/NR No Yes

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3.5 SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSAL DRUG PLAN

Finally, when asked if they support a universal public drug plan to ensure that all Canadians are covered for necessary prescription drugs, more than three-quarters (77%) support this idea, and fewer than one in seven (15%) are opposed (8% are unsure).

- Support for this idea is highest in the Atlantic Provinces (85%), those under 35 years of age (84 per cent), among middle income earners (less than \$80,000 in annual household income-83%), and among those with high school education or less (80%).

Tracking reveals that these results have remained largely stable since 2013.

Support for universal public drug plan

Q. Do you support a universal public drug plan to ensure that all Canadians are covered for necessary prescription drugs? This means covering drugs the way we cover hospitals and doctors.

November 2016



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May 2013



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