

Leger

REPORT

Pharmacare

Survey of Canadians



THE
CANADIAN
PRESS

DATE 2023-12-19



Methodology



Method

Online survey among respondents 18 years of age or older.

(Canadian sample: n= 1,622).

Respondents had the option of completing the survey in English or in French and were randomly recruited using LEO's online panel.



When

December 15th to December 17th, 2023



Margin of error

For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size yields a margin of error no greater than $\pm 2.43\%$, (19 times out of 20) for the Canadian sample.



Weighting

Results were weighted according to **age, gender, mother tongue, region, education and presence of children in the household** in order to ensure a representative sample of the Canadian population.

Methodology



Significant differences

Data in bold **red** characters indicate a significantly lower proportion than that of other respondents. Conversely, data in bold **green** characters indicate a significantly higher proportion than that of other respondents.



Rounded data

The numbers presented have been rounded up. However, the numbers before rounding were used to calculate the sums presented and might therefore not correspond to the manual addition of these numbers.



Questions

Have questions about the data presented in this report? Please contact Christian Bourque, Executive Vice-President, Eastern Canada at the following e-mail addresses: cbourque@leger360.com

A more detailed methodology is presented in the Appendix.

Methodology

Leger is the polling firm that has presented the most accurate election survey data, on average, over the last ten years in Canada. During the last federal election in 2021, Leger was once again **the most accurate firm in the country**. This accuracy is attributed to the quality of the LEO panel and rigorous application of methodological rules by Leger's 600 employees, including 200 professionals in Leger's eight offices across Canada (Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and in the United States (New York).

Poll aggregator 338Canada.com gave Leger the highest rating among all polling firms in Canada for the accuracy of its studies. See <https://338canada.com/pollster-ratings.htm>

2021 CANADIAN FEDERAL ELECTION



LEGER SURVEY

Published in *Le Journal de Montréal*
and *The National Post/Postmedia*
September 18, 2021

OFFICIAL RESULTS

2021 Canadian Federal Election*

33%	32%	19%	7%	6%	2%
33.7%	32.6%	17.8%	7.7%	5.0%	2.3%

Key Highlights

From December 15 to 17, 2023, we surveyed Canadians to find out about their opinions and preferences regarding a possible pharmacare program and healthcare spending.

Some of the key highlights of our survey about pharmacare spending include...

- If the federal government had more funding, the top three priorities for Canadians would be to reduce surgical wait times (36%), improve senior care including more long-term care homes (32%), and expand mental health services (30%).
- Half of Canadians (47%) say they are familiar with the federal government's plan to introduce a universal plan that would cover the prescription drug expenses for all Canadians, also called pharmacare. In comparison, around the same proportion (53%) says they are not familiar with pharmacare. Respondents living in British Columbia (63%), males (55%), and respondents aged 18-34 years old (52%) are more likely to be familiar with pharmacare.
- For most Canadians, the preferred approach for the new program is to have a program that will cover Canadians who are not currently covered through their employment and who have a total annual income of less than \$90,000 or are over 65 years old.
- 17% of Canadians think that implementing a new drug plan should not be a priority for the government. This proportion is higher among conservative voters (23%).



REPORT

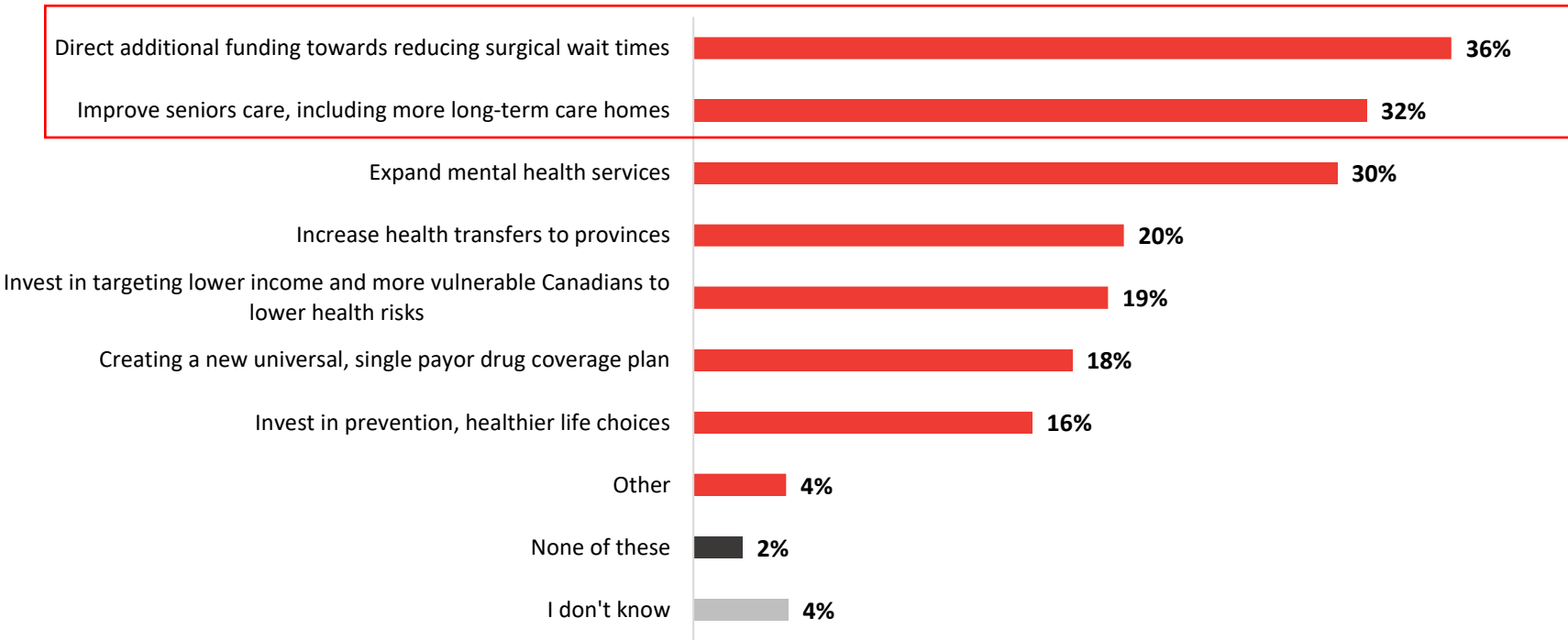
Detailed Results



Priorities in Health Care Funding (1/2)

Q1. If the Federal government has additional funding to spend on health care, what should be the top 2 priorities for spending new money?

Base: All respondents (n=1,622)



Priorities in Health Care Funding (2/2)

Q1. If the Federal government has additional funding to spend on health care, what should be the top 2 priorities for spending new money?







Base: All respondents

	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural
Weighted n=	1,622	110	377	633	105	175	222	789	833	424	526	673	722	608	285
Unweighted n=	1,622	105	437	626	134	155	165	807	815	317	554	751	710	602	303
Direct additional funding towards reducing surgical wait times	36%	37%	34%	35%	36%	39%	35%	35%	37%	25%	37%	41%	31%	40%	40%
Improve seniors care, including more long-term care homes	32%	26%	28%	38%	25%	26%	30%	30%	33%	17%	26%	46%	28%	33%	36%
Expand mental health services	30%	28%	29%	32%	35%	25%	30%	24%	36%	38%	35%	22%	30%	30%	31%
Increase health transfers to provinces	20%	24%	33%	13%	31%	19%	14%	25%	15%	15%	18%	25%	20%	21%	20%
Invest in targeting lower income and more vulnerable Canadians to lower health risks	19%	20%	17%	19%	20%	18%	24%	19%	20%	27%	16%	18%	21%	19%	17%
Creating a new universal, single payor drug coverage plan	18%	19%	12%	18%	15%	25%	22%	21%	15%	22%	17%	16%	19%	18%	15%
Invest in prevention, healthier life choices	16%	19%	18%	15%	16%	12%	17%	17%	15%	17%	20%	12%	20%	14%	11%
Other	4%	7%	3%	5%	1%	3%	7%	5%	4%	5%	6%	3%	5%	4%	5%
None of these	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	7%	1%	2%	2%	4%	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%
I don't know	4%	6%	3%	6%	4%	4%	2%	3%	6%	6%	5%	3%	5%	3%	5%

Priorities in Health Care Funding – *By Voting Intentions*

Q1. If the Federal government has additional funding to spend on health care, what should be the top 2 priorities for spending new money?

Base: All respondents

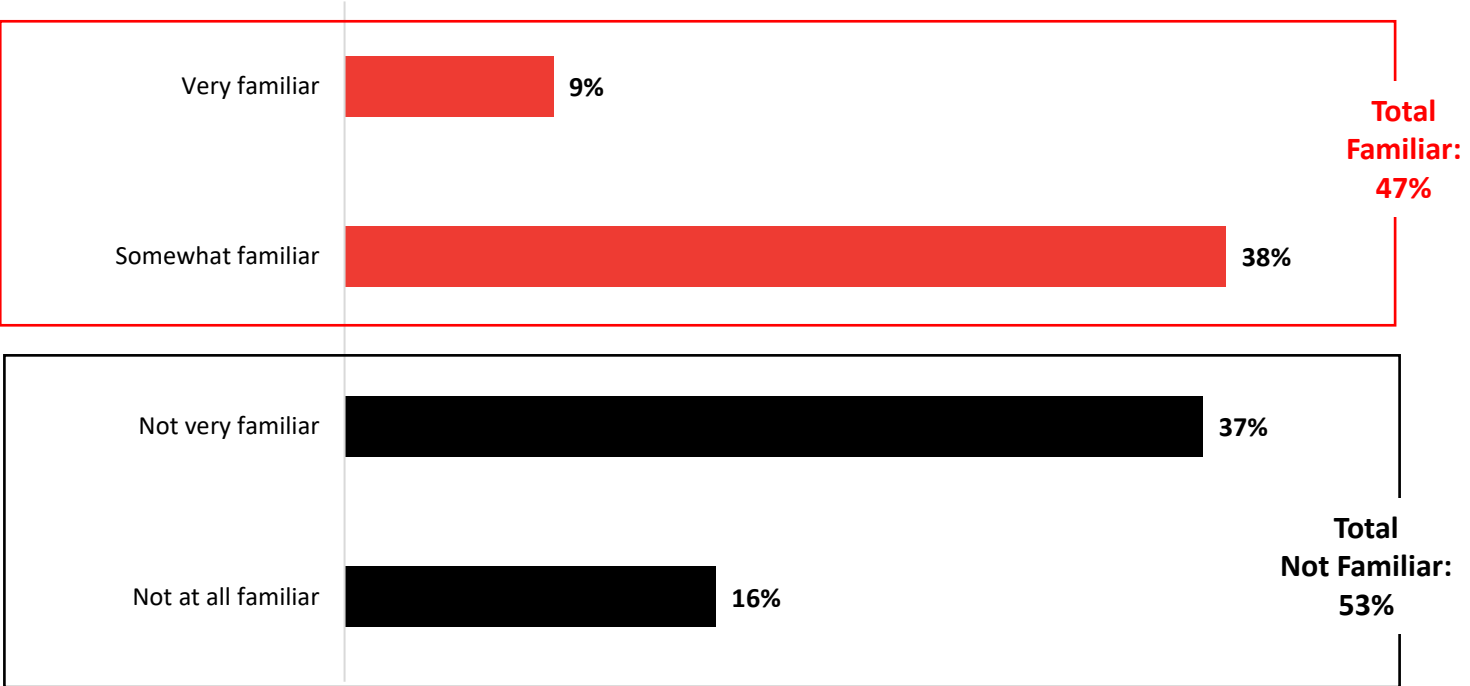
							
	Total Canada	CPC	LPC	NDP	BQ	GPC	PPC
Weighted n=	1,622	504	370	234	90	68	24*
Unweighted n=	1,622	515	387	218	101	64	27*
Direct additional funding towards reducing surgical wait times	36%	41%	38%	32%	34%	27%	21%
Improve seniors care, including more long-term care homes	32%	37%	31%	32%	27%	30%	27%
Expand mental health services	30%	26%	31%	39%	23%	30%	30%
Increase health transfers to provinces	20%	24%	21%	10%	51%	21%	16%
Invest in targeting lower income and more vulnerable Canadians to lower health risks	19%	19%	23%	23%	8%	23%	33%
Creating a new universal, single payor drug coverage plan	18%	15%	21%	30%	4%	17%	18%
Invest in prevention, healthier life choices	16%	16%	15%	17%	14%	25%	19%
Other	4%	4%	4%	5%	2%	3%	0%
None of these	2%	3%	1%	1%	3%	2%	7%
I don't know	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	0%

*Given the small number of respondents (n<30) data are presented for illustrative purposes only.

Knowledge of the Federal Government’s Pharmacare (1/2)

Q2. How familiar are you with the possibility of the federal government introducing a new universal plan that would cover the prescription drug expenses for all Canadians, often called “pharmacare”?

Base: All respondents (n=1,622)



Knowledge of the Federal Government's Pharmacare (2/2)

Q2. How familiar are you with the possibility of the federal government introducing a new universal plan that would cover the prescription drug expenses for all Canadians, often called “pharmacare”?

Base: All respondents







	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural
Weighted n=	1,622	110	377	633	105	175	222	789	833	424	526	673	722	608	285
Unweighted n=	1,622	105	437	626	134	155	165	807	815	317	554	751	710	602	303
Total Familiar	47%	51%	37%	45%	53%	51%	63%	55%	39%	52%	42%	47%	51%	46%	41%
Very familiar	9%	7%	8%	8%	8%	10%	12%	11%	6%	13%	8%	6%	11%	5%	9%
Somewhat familiar	38%	44%	29%	37%	45%	41%	51%	44%	33%	39%	34%	41%	39%	40%	32%
Total Not Familiar	53%	49%	63%	55%	47%	49%	37%	45%	61%	48%	58%	53%	49%	54%	59%
Not very familiar	37%	38%	45%	38%	30%	30%	30%	32%	42%	29%	41%	40%	35%	39%	39%
Not at all familiar	16%	11%	19%	17%	17%	19%	7%	13%	19%	19%	17%	13%	15%	15%	20%

Knowledge of the Federal Government's Pharmacare

– By Voting Intentions

Q2. How familiar are you with the possibility of the federal government introducing a new universal plan that would cover the prescription drug expenses for all Canadians, often called “pharmacare”?

Base: All respondents

							
	Total Canada	CPC	LPC	NDP	BQ	GPC	PPC
Weighted n=	1,622	504	370	234	90	68	24*
Unweighted n=	1,622	515	387	218	101	64	27*
Total Familiar	47%	48%	56%	47%	39%	60%	63%
Very familiar	9%	9%	9%	6%	9%	13%	8%
Somewhat familiar	38%	38%	47%	42%	30%	48%	55%
Total Not Familiar	53%	52%	44%	53%	61%	40%	37%
Not very familiar	37%	37%	32%	40%	46%	30%	27%
Not at all familiar	16%	15%	12%	13%	15%	10%	9%

*Given the small number of respondents (n<30) data are presented for illustrative purposes only.

Preferred Approach for the New Program (1/2)

Q3. There are different approaches a new program to cover prescription drug costs could take. Below are a few of those options. Which one would you prefer the federal government implement?

Base: All respondents (n=1,622)

A new program for all Canadians who are not currently covered under a drug benefits plan through their employment AND who have a total annual income of less than \$90,000 or are over the age of 65. Those covered by plans through their employment would continue unchanged.



A new universal national program covering prescription drugs for all Canadians, which would replace any basic existing drug coverage currently received though one's employment.



A new program for all Canadians who are not currently covered under a drug benefits plan through their employment. Those covered by plans through their employment would continue unchanged.



A new program for all Canadians who are not currently covered under a drug benefits plan through a provincial program. Those covered by plans through their province would continue unchanged.



None of these. A new drug plan should not be a priority for the government



Preferred Approach for the New Program (2/2)

Q3. There are different approaches a new program to cover prescription drug costs could take. Below are a few of those options. Which one would you prefer the federal government implement?

Base: All respondents







	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural
Weighted n=	1,622	110	377	633	105	175	222	789	833	424	526	673	722	608	285
Unweighted n=	1,622	105	437	626	134	155	165	807	815	317	554	751	710	602	303
A new program for all Canadians who are not currently covered under a drug benefits plan through their employment AND who have a total annual income of less than \$90,000 or are over the age of 65. Those covered by plans through their employment would continue unchanged.	27%	29%	24%	27%	25%	22%	35%	27%	26%	20%	22%	35%	27%	25%	30%
A new universal national program covering prescription drugs for all Canadians, which would replace any basic existing drug coverage currently received through one's employment.	22%	23%	21%	20%	21%	30%	27%	24%	21%	27%	27%	16%	23%	22%	20%
A new program for all Canadians who are not currently covered under a drug benefits plan through their employment. Those covered by plans through their employment would continue unchanged.	22%	13%	21%	24%	23%	20%	22%	20%	23%	31%	22%	16%	23%	25%	13%
A new program for all Canadians who are not currently covered under a drug benefits plan through a provincial program. Those covered by plans through their province would continue unchanged.	12%	19%	14%	11%	9%	9%	9%	13%	10%	9%	7%	16%	11%	11%	13%
None of these. A new drug plan should not be a priority for the government	17%	16%	19%	18%	22%	19%	8%	15%	19%	13%	22%	16%	15%	16%	24%

Preferred Approach for the New Program

– *By Voting Intentions*

Q3. There are different approaches a new program to cover prescription drug costs could take. Below are a few of those options. Which one would you prefer the federal government implement?

Base: All respondents

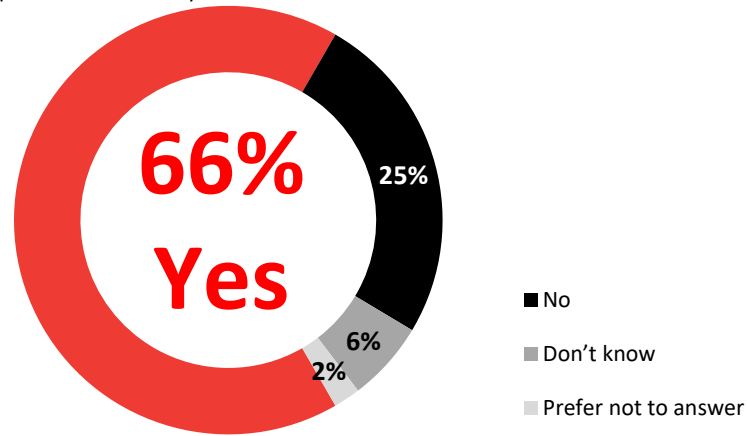
							
	Total Canada	CPC	LPC	NDP	BQ	GPC	PPC
Weighted n=	1,622	504	370	234	90	68	24*
Unweighted n=	1,622	515	387	218	101	64	27*
A new program for all Canadians who are not currently covered under a drug benefits plan through their employment AND who have a total annual income of less than \$90,000 or are over the age of 65. Those covered by plans through their employment would continue unchanged.	27%	27%	30%	27%	17%	36%	30%
A new universal national program covering prescription drugs for all Canadians, which would replace any basic existing drug coverage currently received though one's employment.	22%	19%	26%	28%	19%	29%	14%
A new program for all Canadians who are not currently covered under a drug benefits plan through their employment. Those covered by plans through their employment would continue unchanged.	22%	20%	25%	25%	19%	23%	19%
A new program for all Canadians who are not currently covered under a drug benefits plan through a provincial program. Those covered by plans through their province would continue unchanged.	12%	11%	12%	12%	15%	5%	14%
None of these. A new drug plan should not be a priority for the government	17%	23%	6%	8%	30%	8%	22%

*Given the small number of respondents (n<30) data are presented for illustrative purposes only.

Current Drug Coverage

Q4. Are your prescription drug costs currently covered, in whole or part, by a private or provincial insurance plan —either through you or a partner’s employment or something paid for directly?

Base: All respondents (n=1,622)



	Total Canada	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Urban	Sub-Urban	Rural
Weighted n=	1,622	110	377	633	105	175	222	789	833	424	526	673	722	608	285
Unweighted n=	1,622	105	437	626	134	155	165	807	815	317	554	751	710	602	303
Yes	66%	73%	76%	60%	62%	77%	60%	68%	65%	51%	73%	72%	66%	66%	67%
No	25%	16%	20%	29%	27%	17%	36%	25%	25%	33%	21%	24%	26%	26%	24%
Don't know	6%	9%	4%	9%	9%	3%	3%	6%	7%	14%	5%	3%	6%	7%	7%
Prefer not to answer	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%

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Detailed Methodology



Weighted and Unweighted Sample (1/2)

The table below presents the Canadian geographic distribution of respondents before weighting.

	Unweighted	Weighted
Province	1,622	1,622
British Columbia	165	222
Alberta	155	175
Manitoba/Saskatchewan	134	105
Ontario	626	633
Quebec	437	377
Atlantic	105	110

Weighted and Unweighted Sample (2/2)

The following tables present the demographic distribution of respondents according to gender, age and language (mother tongue) for Canada.

The table below presents the Canadian geographic distribution of respondents before weighting.

	Unweighted	Weighted
Gender	1,622	1,622
Male	807	789
Female	815	833
Age	1,622	1,622
18 to 34	317	424
35 to 54	554	526
55+	751	673
Language (Mother tongue)	1,622	1,622
English	1,030	1,095
French	389	322
Other	203	204

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- **International Research**
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8

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