

INSITE

Canadians Are Supportive of Insite and Oppose Moves to Shut it Down

British Columbians are more likely to endorse the facility's operations and the concept of "harm reduction" than respondents in other provinces.

[VANCOUVER – Jul. 29, 2010] – Vancouver's legal supervised injection site remains a touchy issue for one-in-four Canadians, but respondents in British Columbia clearly support its operations and disagree with the federal government's attempts to shut it down, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,000 Canadian adults, 43 per cent of respondents support the operations of the Insite facility, while 24 per cent are opposed.

In addition, two-in-five Canadians (40%) disagree with the federal government's decision to appeal to the Supreme Court in an effort to shut down Insite, while one-in-four (27%) agree.

Albertans are more likely to both oppose Insite (36%) and side with Ottawa on its decision to appeal (41%).

Conversely, a majority of British Columbians support the legal supervised injection site's operations (68%) and disagree with the course of action pursued by the federal government (58%).

Despite the level of support for Insite, some misconceptions about the facility prevail. One-in-four Canadians (26%) mistakenly assume that Insite actually provides drugs to people who use the facility, including 30 per cent of British Columbians.

KEY FINDINGS

- **43% support the operations of the Insite facility; 24% are opposed**
- **40% disagree with the federal government's decision to appeal to the Supreme Court in an effort to shut down Insite; 27% agree with it**
- **Canadians evenly split on the concept of "harm reduction"**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From July 23 to July 24, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,000 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—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.

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

Views on “Harm Reduction”

Canadians are evenly divided in their assessment of “harm reduction”, a term that has been used to describe policies that both acknowledge that some people will engage in risky behaviours—such as drug use or prostitution—and try to mitigate potential dangers. Critics of this concept claim that “harm reduction” condones risky behaviours and sends the message that they are acceptable.

Overall, 37 per cent of respondents believe in “harm reduction” while 37 per cent do not. British Columbians (47%), Atlantic Canadians (45%) and Ontarians (40%) are more likely to endorse the concept, while Quebecers (45%) and Albertans (40%) are more likely to decry it.

Still, three-in-four Canadians (76%) think policy makers should place more emphasis on education and prevention when tackling drug addiction in Canada. Only 14 per cent believe “harm reduction” should take precedence.

Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/AngusReidGlobal>

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

Insite

As you may know, a facility known as Insite has operated in Vancouver since 2003. Insite is the first legal supervised injection site in North America. From what you have seen, read or heard about Insite, do you support or oppose its operations?

Region							
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Support	43%	68%	33%	37%	39%	41%	43%
Oppose	24%	30%	36%	28%	21%	23%	16%
Not sure	33%	2%	31%	35%	40%	36%	42%

Insite

In January, the B.C. Court of Appeal rejected an appeal launched by the federal government and allowed Insite to remain open. The federal government has appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada in an effort to shut down Insite. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you agree or disagree with the government's decision?

Region							
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Agree	27%	36%	41%	28%	22%	25%	27%
Disagree	40%	58%	26%	42%	40%	36%	34%
Not sure	33%	6%	33%	30%	38%	39%	39%

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

Insite

The term “harm reduction” has been used to describe policies that both acknowledge that some people will engage in risky behaviours—such as drug use or prostitution—and try to mitigate potential dangers. Critics of this concept claim that “harm reduction” condones risky behaviours and sends the message that they are acceptable. Thinking about this, which of the following statements comes closer to your own point of view?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
I believe in “harm reduction”	37%	47%	31%	38%	40%	27%	45%
I do not believe in “harm reduction”	37%	38%	40%	37%	32%	45%	24%
Not sure	27%	15%	30%	25%	28%	28%	31%

Insite

Overall, where do you think policy makers should place more emphasis when tackling drug addiction in Canada?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
On education and prevention	76%	74%	83%	81%	78%	74%	65%
On “harm reduction” programs	14%	20%	7%	9%	12%	15%	21%
Not sure	10%	6%	10%	10%	10%	10%	14%

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

Insite

Here is a list of features of supervised safe injection sites. Which of these features do you think are available for users at Vancouver's Insite facility?

	Region						
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	PQ	ATL
Sterile injection equipment	79%	96%	88%	72%	84%	62%	76%
Information about drug addiction	74%	90%	82%	63%	80%	60%	73%
Access to medical staff	70%	83%	72%	59%	75%	58%	68%
Treatment referrals	69%	82%	70%	59%	78%	55%	62%
Drugs (heroin, cocaine, morphine)	26%	30%	28%	15%	26%	27%	24%
None of these	8%	0%	4%	14%	7%	11%	18%

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical 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 Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record can be found at:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at
<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

- 30 -

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

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>**

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com