

Alberta Pesticide Survey Report

For



CAPE
Canadian Association
of Physicians
for the Environment

Association Canadienne
des Médecins
pour l'Environnement
ACME

PREVENT
CANCER



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METHODOLOGY & LOGISTICS

Overview

- This report represents the findings from an omnibus telephone survey of Alberta residents conducted by Oraclepoll in August 2016. The results contained in this report are from those four questions subscribed to by CAFE and Prevent Cancer Now.
- This Word report contains an executive summary of the findings while separate Excel reports contain the results by question and a cross tabulation of the findings by demographics.

Study Sample

- A total of n=1000 respondents was interviewed in the survey. The margin of error for the sample is +/- 3.1%, 19/20 times.

Survey Method

- All surveys were conducted by telephone using live operators at the Oraclepoll call centre facility.
- The survey was conducted using computer-assisted techniques of telephone interviewing (CATI) and random number selection. The random database was inclusive of new numbers, private numbers and cell phone only households.
- A total of 20% of all interviews were monitored and the management of Oraclepoll Research Limited supervised 100%.
- Surveys were conducted between the days of August 25th and August 31st 2016.

Logistics

- Initial calls were made between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Subsequent call backs of no-answers and busy numbers were made on a (staggered) daily rotating basis up to 5 times (from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.) until contact was made. In addition, telephone interview appointments were attempted with those respondents unable to complete the survey at the time of contact.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PESTICIDES

Respondents were first read a brief statement describing pesticides after which they were asked to rate their level of agreement with three statements related to pesticide usage.

“Pesticides are products used to kill pests such as weeds and insects, including on lawns and gardens.”

“Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements using a scale from one strongly disagree to five strongly agree. “

AGREEMENT QUESTIONS	Total Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Total Agree	Do not Know
Q1. Pesticides used on lawns and gardens in my community pose a threat to the environment including wildlife, air, soil and water quality.	24%	24%	50%	2%
Q2. Pesticides used on lawns and gardens in my community pose a health threat to children.	17%	14%	66%	2%
Q3. Pesticides used on lawns and gardens in my community pose a health threat to pets such as dogs and cats.	18%	11%	68%	3%

Half of those interviewed or 50% agreed with the first statement (Q1) that pesticides pose a threat to the general environment including wildlife, air, soil and water, compared to only 24% that disagreed, while 24% had a neutral opinion (neither agree nor disagree) and 2% were unsure. Agreement was highest with those 18-34 years of age (58%) and among more females (57%) compared to males (44%).

Almost two-thirds of Albertans or 66% agreed that pesticides pose a threat to children, while a low 17% disagreed and 14% neither agreed nor disagreed and 2% remained unsure.

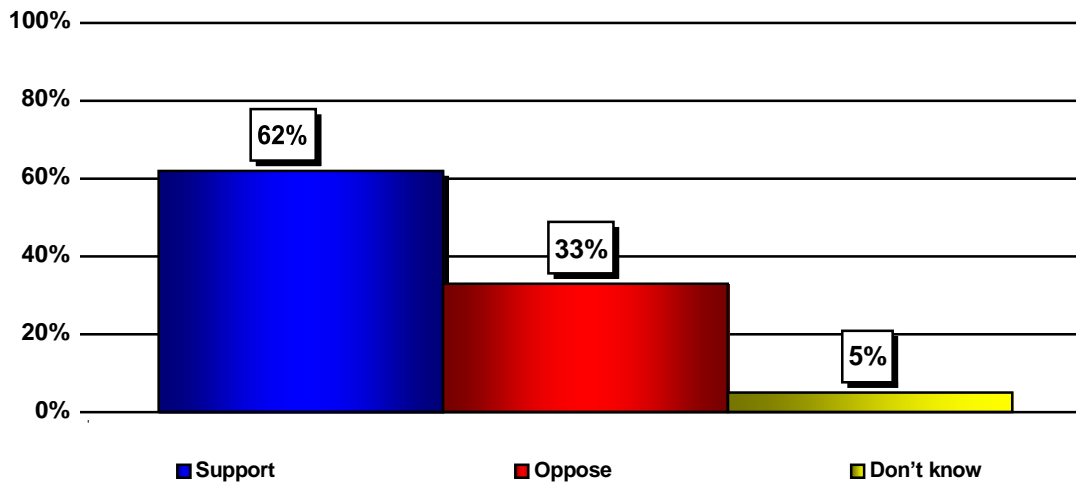
The highest level of agreement was with respect to pesticides posing a health threat to pets at 68%. A total of 18% disagreed, a low 11% had a neutral opinion and 3% were unsure.

PESTICIDE PHASE OUT

In a final question, respondents were first told about pesticide restrictions in other jurisdictions and were then asked if they would support / oppose a law in Alberta phasing out the use of these chemicals in the province.

“Seven other Canadian provinces have already restricted pesticides used on lawns and gardens due to the risks posed to human health and the environment.”

Q4. “Would you support or oppose a law that phases out the use and sale of all but the safest pesticides for lawns and gardens in Alberta? The law would not apply to mosquito control, agriculture or forestry. “



A 62% majority of Albertans surveyed said that they would support a law that phases out the use and sale of all but the safest pesticides for lawns and gardens in Alberta. Only one-third or 33% would oppose such a law and 5% were undecided. The youngest residents of the province 18-34 years of age also were most likely to support the proposed legislation (70%).