

**Montreal Economic Institute**

**Pan-Canadian Survey Report**

**April 2005**

**The Opinion of Canadians  
on Access to Health Care**

April 12, 2005  
13026-005



MEMBER/MEMBRE **GALLUP**  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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## Methodological Reminder

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This study was conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 1,504 English- or French-speaking Canadians, 18 years of age or older.

The interviews were conducted from our Montreal call centre from April 5 to April 10, 2005. Up to ten call-backs were made in the case of non-response.

Using data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to gender, region, and language spoken at home to ensure a sample representative of the entire Canadian adult population. In the end, the maximum margin of error obtained for a sample of 1,504 respondents is of  $\pm 2.5\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

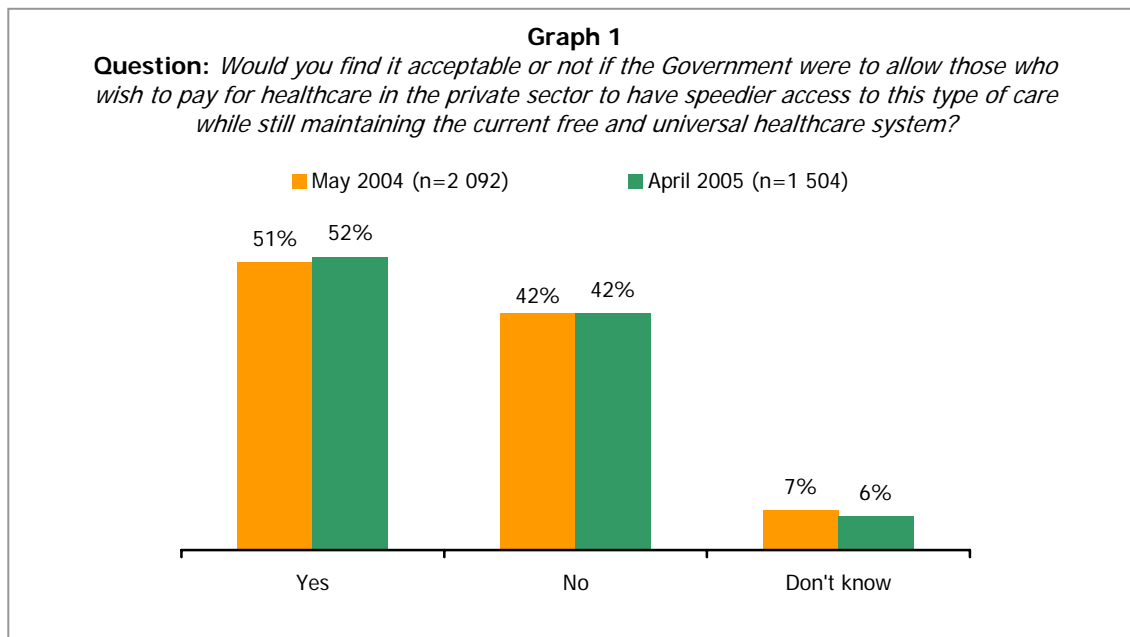
## Survey Results

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## 1. Little change in the Canadian opinion on increased access to private sector health care<sup>1</sup>

- As in May 2004, one Canadian out of two (52%) would accept that the government allow speedier access to health care to those who wish to pay for this type of care in the private sector, while maintaining the current free and universal healthcare system. However, 42% of people surveyed would not accept such an arrangement. A proportion of 7% did not express an opinion.

⇒ When compared to last year's results, these proportions are almost identical; the slight discrepancies observed are not statistically significant.



Among the respondents who would find it **acceptable** that the government allow speedier access to healthcare in the private sector for those who wish to pay, **proportions are stronger proportions** among the following profiles:

- Francophones (65%)
- Quebeckers (65%)
- People with an elementary school education (75%)
- People who intend to vote for the Conservative Party (67%) and those who intend to vote for the Bloc Québécois (64%)





There are significantly **more** respondents who would not find it **acceptable** that the government allow such access among the following groups:

- Anglophones (45%)
- Residents from the Atlantic Provinces (56%) Ontarians (47%)

<sup>1</sup> This same question was asked in an Omnican survey conducted May 28 to May 30, 2004 among 2,092 Canadians (see: [http://www.iedm.org/uploaded/pdf/sondage0504\\_en.pdf](http://www.iedm.org/uploaded/pdf/sondage0504_en.pdf)). The margin of error for 2,092 people surveyed is ± 2.14%, 19 times out of 20.

- Those who intend to vote for the New Democratic Party (59%)

### Distribution according to voting intentions

	Entire population (n=1,504)				
Yes	52%	49%	67% <sup>↑</sup>	35% <sup>↓</sup>	64% <sup>↑</sup>
No	42%	45%	30% <sup>↓</sup>	59% <sup>↑</sup>	34% <sup>↓</sup>
Don't know/Refusal	6%	6%	3% <sup>↓</sup>	6%	2% <sup>↓</sup>

Note 1: Significant statistical differences are indicated using the symbol <sup>↑</sup> if they are higher and by <sup>↓</sup> if they are lower.

Note 2: Vertical reading

### Distribution according to Canadian regions

N=1,504	Yes	No	Don't know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	37% <sup>↓</sup>	56% <sup>↑</sup>	7%
Quebec <sup>2</sup>	65% <sup>↑</sup>	33% <sup>↓</sup>	1% <sup>↓</sup>
Ontario	46% <sup>↓</sup>	47% <sup>↑</sup>	6%
Prairies	51%	41%	9%
Alberta	45%	47%	8%
British Columbia	56%	33% <sup>↓</sup>	12% <sup>↑</sup>
Canada	52%	42%	6%

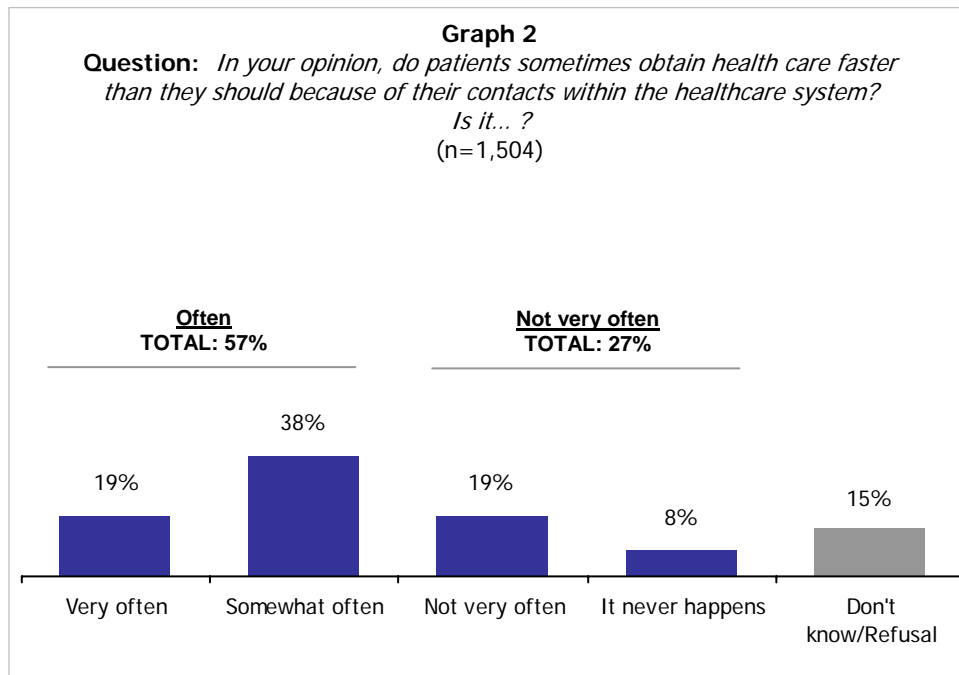
Note 1: Since results were rounded out, the total can vary  $\pm 1\%$  from 100%.

Note 2: Horizontal reading

<sup>2</sup> In January 2004, the same question was asked among 2,001 Quebecers and 71.7% of respondents had answered "yes," compared to 24.1% who answered "no". The margin of error for 2,001 people surveyed was  $\pm 2.2\%$ , 19 times out of 20. The survey was conducted from January 7 to January 18, 2004. In May 2004, 68% of Quebecers were in agreement.

## 2. Perception of privileged access to health care

- Faster access to health care, which some patients take advantage of because of contacts within the system, happens often based on the perceptions of 57% of Canadians, of which 19% believe *very* often. However, 27% of people surveyed consider that this does not happen very often, of which 8% believe it never happens. We should specify that 15% of Canadians did not express an opinion.



*Note : Since results were rounded out, they can vary  $\pm$  1% from 100%.*

Respondents with the following profiles **had more of a tendency** to say that patients **often** obtain faster access than they should because of their contacts within the healthcare system:

- Women (62%)
- 25 to 34 year olds (64%)
- Francophones (69%)
- Quebeckers (70%), Albertans (67%)
- People with an annual income between \$60,000 and \$79,999 (65%)
- People with a college level education (62%)
- People who are employed (60%)

And respondents who believe that it does **not occur very often** are proportionately **more likely** to be found among the people with the following profile:

- Men (32%)
- People who live in the Prairies (36%)

### Distribution according to Canadian regions

N=1 504	Very or somewhat often	Not very often or it never happens	Don't know / Refusal
Atlantic Provinces	61%	24%	15%
Quebec	70%↑	23%	7%↓
Ontario	53%↓	29%	18%↓
Prairies	53%	36%↓	12%
Alberta	67%↑	20%	13%
British Columbia	45%↓	29%	26%↓
Canada	57%	27%	15%

Note 1: Significant statistical differences are indicated using the symbol ↑ if they are higher and by ↓ if they are lower.

Note 2: Since results were rounded out, they can vary ± 1% from 100%.