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## Health Care and Economic Issues



Final Report : February 2010



## Methodology

- For this study, a series of questions were fielded on the Canadian Ipsos Reid Online Omnibus from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, 2010.
- The Canadian Ipsos Reid Online Omnibus conducts 1,000 online interviews among a representative cross-section of Canadian adults each week, providing an overall margin of error of  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points at the 95% confidence interval. In this case, 2,017 interviews were conducted, yielding a margin of error of  $\pm 2.18$  percentage points.
- The following table sets out the margin of error for each region in this wave of the Canadian Ipsos Reid Online Omnibus :

Regions		Margin of Error
British Columbia	n= 264	$\pm 6.03$
Alberta	n=203	$\pm 6.88$
Saskatchewan/Manitoba	n=128	$\pm 8.66$
Ontario	n=795	$\pm 3.48$
Quebec	n=472	$\pm 4.50$
Atlantic Canada	n=154	$\pm 7.90$
<b>Total Canada</b>	n=2,017	<b><math>\pm 2.18</math></b>



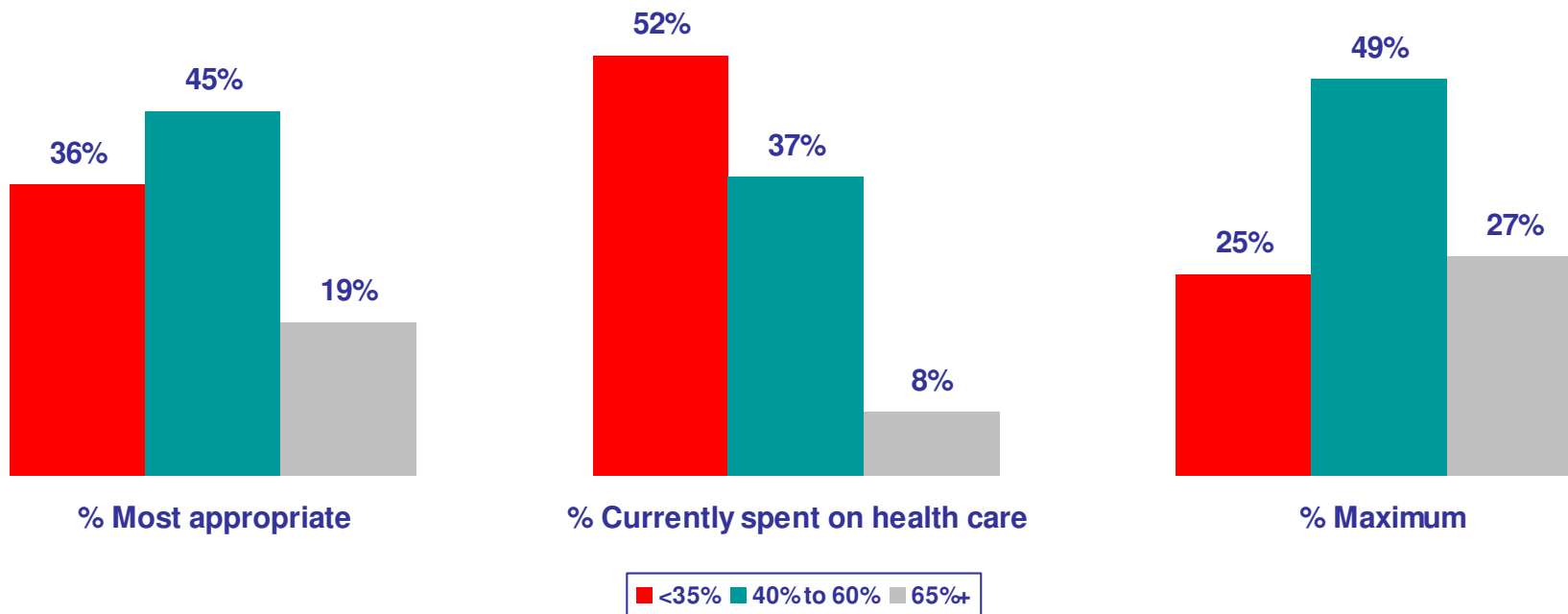
## Canadians perceptions of current spending on health care are slightly lower than what they see as appropriate

To the best of your knowledge, can you indicate in the box below what percentage of your provinces' budget is spent on health?

**Average *appropriate* proportion of budget: 47%**

**Average *perceived* proportion of current budget: 38%**

**Average *maximum* proportion of budget: 52%**

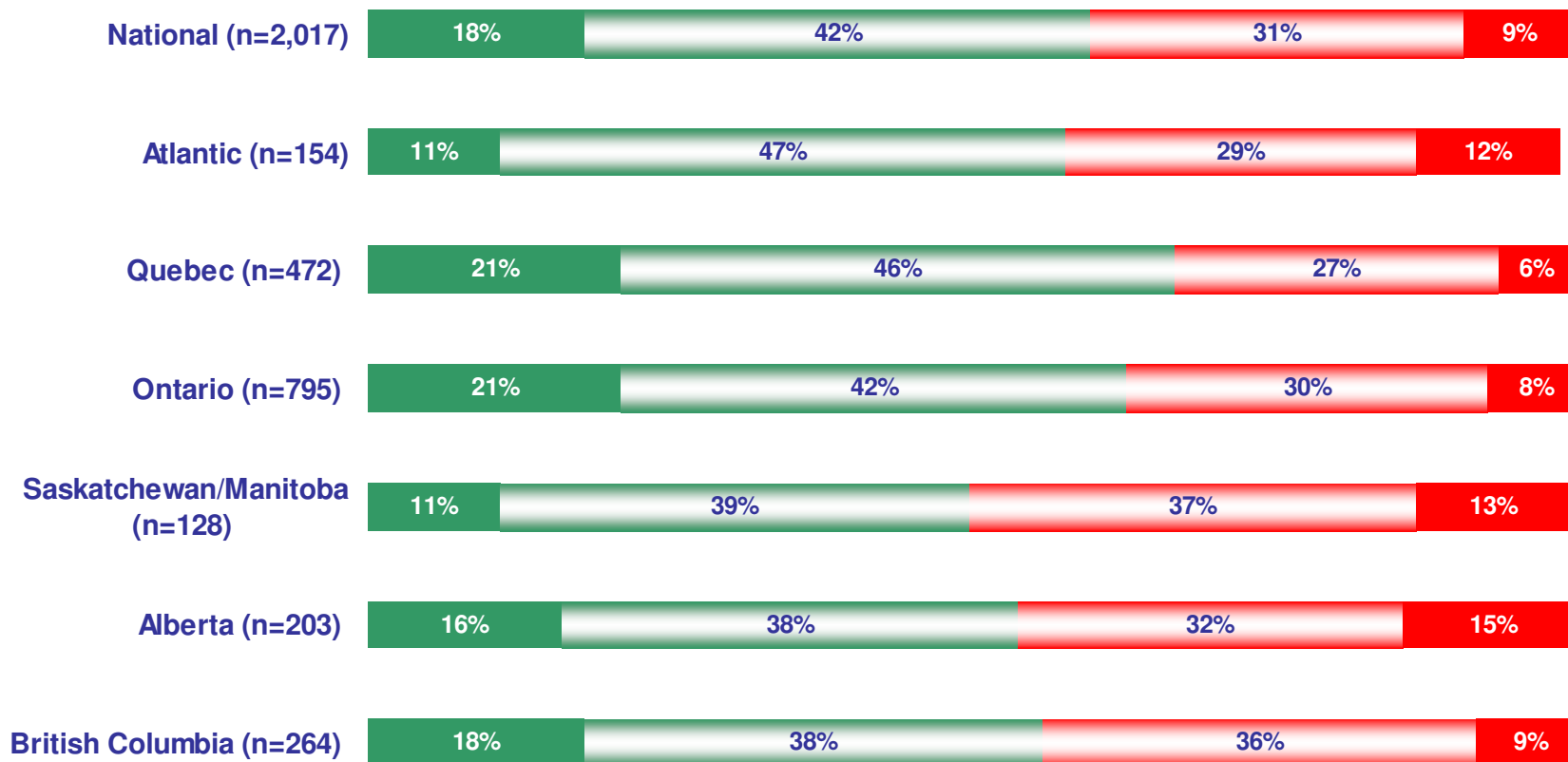




# Residents of Ontario and Quebec are most concerned about the level of spending on healthcare in their province

Would you say that you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned or not at all concerned...

Very concerned   Somewhat concerned   Not very concerned   Not at all concerned





## Half continue to say that costs will rise sharply; fewer say cost will be manageable, contained or decrease

	2000		2004		2008		2010	
	Strongly Agree (8,9,10)	Strongly Disagree (0,1,2)	Strongly Agree (8,9,10)	Strongly Disagree (0,1,2)	Strongly Agree (8,9,10)	Strongly Disagree (0,1,2)	Strongly Agree (8,9,10)	Strongly Disagree (0,1,2)
'Health care costs will rise sharply, thereby increasing demands for public funds for health care.'	45%	8%	48%	9%	46%	7%	44%	6%
'Health costs will rise gradually, but the increase will be manageable due to growth in the economy.'	19%	11%	18%	23%	10%	27%	7%	29%
'The demand for health care will increase, but we will be able to contain costs by operating the health care system more efficiently.'	29%	10%	21%	19%	17%	21%	14%	24%
'The demand for health care will decrease because the population will enjoy better health status.'	11%	34%	16%	35%	6%	54%	4%	54%

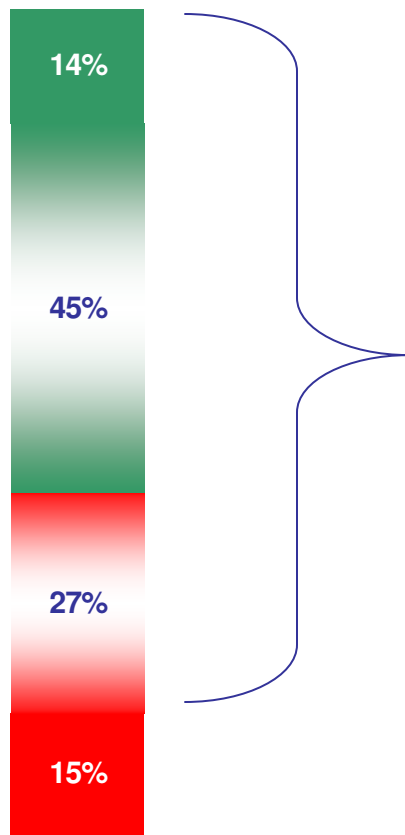


# The majority who agree that the current system is not sustainable favour patient contribution over taxes or spending cuts

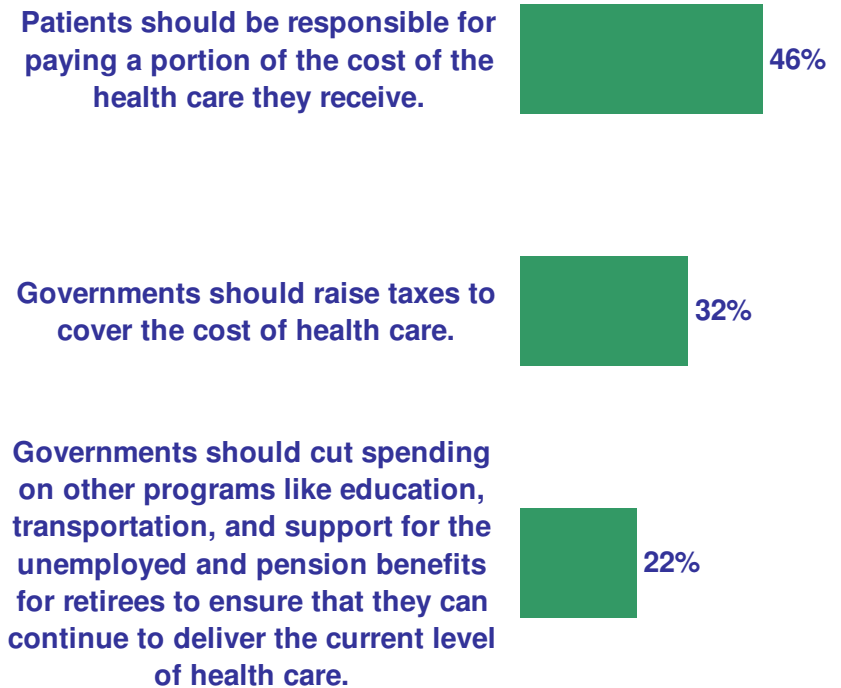
Please indicate whether you completely agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or disagree with the following statement



As a result of the increasing cost of providing universal healthcare in Canada, governments will not be able to continue to afford the current health care system while continuing to provide other services like education, transportation and support for the unemployed and pension benefits for retirees to ensure that they can continue to deliver the current level of health care.



Below is a list of possible ways to address the issue of the affordability of the health care system. Please select the solution you think is best.





## A patient pay approach to funding is more popular than a tax-based solution by a 2 to 1 margin

Over the next two decades there will be fewer working Canadians relative to the total population. Which of the following do you think would be the best way of ensuring that there will be enough government tax revenue to pay for future health care expenditures without compromising other government programs?

■ A very good idea ■ A somewhat good idea

Developing a contribution-based Canada Health Plan that would raise revenue and set aside financial resources for individuals who need health care the same way that the Canada Pension Plan works for people who want to retire.



Developing a Registered Health Savings Plan, similar to the Registered Retirement Saving Plan that would allow individuals to save money on a tax free basis that would be available for them to pay for health services or prescription drugs that are not included in the public health plan coverage.



Raising taxes over time to cover the increased demand for health care services.



Taxing Canadians an additional amount on their annual income tax return that is linked to how much health care the person has required over the year up to a maximum amount (a percentage of their total income).





## Canadians would rather pay more taxes or reduce coverage than reduce spending on other social programs

For each of the following statements please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree:



I would be willing to pay 10% more in taxes if I knew all the money would go to improve health care.



I would support limiting medicare coverage to only some core services in order to control the costs of health care as long as individuals could pay for services that are not included in the core.



I would support reducing the amount of money spent on education and social services in order to have more money spent on health care.





# Canadians favour finding efficiencies over a system of penalties and rewards

For each of the following statements please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree

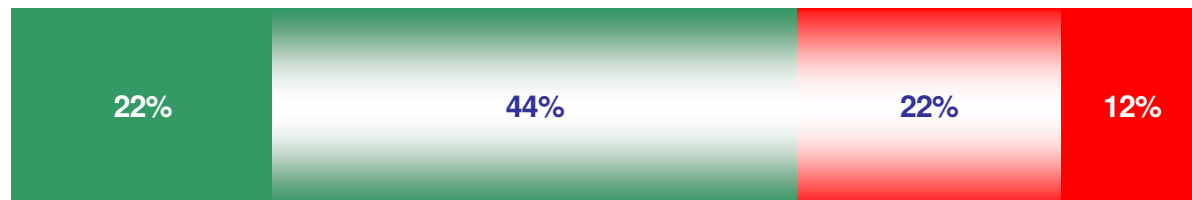
■ Completely agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Completely disagree

The best way to slow down the growing costs associated with health care is to make the system more efficient and effective, essentially finding ways to treat more people with fewer dollars.



35% are confident in the ability of governments/administrators will find efficiencies

The best way to slow down the growing costs associated with health care is to introduce rewards and penalties for healthy living so that people look after their health better, essentially encouraging people to be healthier and stay out of the health system.



47% are confident that this will keep people healthier and out of the system



## More Canadians are confident that governments and administrators can implement a series of rewards and penalties than find efficiencies

Would you say that you are very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident or not at all confident in the ability of governments and health system administrators to find ways to make the system more efficient and effective, essentially findings ways to treat more people with fewer dollars?/a series of rewards and penalties for healthy versus unhealthy lifestyles will make people healthier and keep more people out of the health system



**A series of rewards and penalties for healthy versus unhealthy lifestyles will make people healthier and keep more people out of the health system.**



**Ability of governments and health system administrators to find ways to make the system more efficient and effective.**



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