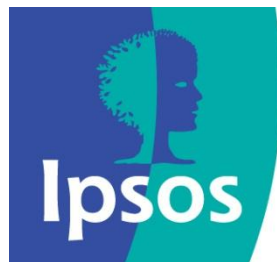


# Eight in Ten (81%) Canadians Support Using Tax Dollars to Create and Support Youth Suicide Prevention Initiatives

*Most (88%) Believe the Government Needs to Do More to Provide for Mental Health Needs of Young People to Prevent Suicide*

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**Ipsos Reid**

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# **Eight in Ten (81%) Canadians Support Using Tax Dollars to Create and Support Youth Suicide Prevention Initiatives**

*Most (88%) Believe the Government Needs to Do More to Provide for  
Mental Health Needs of Young People to Prevent Suicide*

**Toronto, ON** – According to a new study conducted by Ipsos Reid on behalf of the Partners for Mental Health, eight in ten (81%) Canadians ‘support’ (35% strongly/46% somewhat) ‘using tax dollars to fund the creation of a dedicated national suicide prevention fund that would provide matching funds to provincial and territorial governments, or not-for-profit-organizations, to create and support youth suicide prevention initiatives and programs across the country’. Just two in ten (19%) ‘oppose’ (3% strongly/15% somewhat) using public funds for this type of initiative.

In general, most (88%) Canadians ‘agree’ (47% strongly/41% somewhat) that ‘the government needs to be doing more to provide for the mental health needs of our young people to prevent tragedies like suicide’. Just one in ten (12%) ‘disagree’ (1% strongly/11% somewhat). Moreover, almost all (93%) ‘agree’ (59% strongly/34% somewhat) that ‘youth mental health problems and illness deserve the same level of support as any other illness’, while few (7%) ‘disagree’ (1% strongly/6% somewhat).

Six in ten (59%) Canadian parents with children under the age of 25 are ‘concerned’ (27% strongly/32% somewhat) about the mental health of their child or children, while four in ten

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(41%) are not (13% not at all/28% not very). It's likely that much of this concern is due to the perceived lack of support services available: just four in ten (41%) Canadians 'agree' (8% strongly/34% somewhat) that 'there are adequate services and support for the mental health of our children and youth', while the majority 'disagrees' (19% strongly/40% somewhat). Further, three quarters (76%) 'agree' (34% strongly/43% somewhat) that 'the lack of support for mental health services is one of the most pressing issues facing youth today, while one quarter (24%) 'disagree' (3% strongly/21% somewhat) that the issue is so critical.

*These are some of the findings of an Ipsos Reid poll conducted between January 20 to 23, 2014, on behalf of Partners for Mental Health. For this survey, a sample of 1,000 Canadians from Ipsos' Canadian online panel was interviewed online. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within +/-3.5 percentage points had all Canadians adults been polled. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.*

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