

HEALTH CARE

Canadians, Americans Envy Different Aspects of Their Health Care Systems

Canadians think the U.S. is better at performing a surgery quickly, while Americans hold Canada's prescription drug availability in high regard.

[VANCOUVER – Aug. 5, 2009] – People in the United States and Canada believe their respective health care systems are superior to the other to deal with specific issues, but Canadians are more likely to travel abroad for care, a new Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of representative samples in both countries, almost two-thirds of Canadians (65%) have a very or moderately positive impression of the health care system in Canada, while two-in-five Americans (43%) concur.

In contrast, the American health care system gets a negative rating from a majority of respondents in the United States (65%) and garners even worse numbers among Canadians (79%).

Dealing with Specific Issues

Respondents in both countries tend to see their health care system as superior to their neighbour's on some specific issues, such as pinpointing the cause of an ailment (37% of Americans prefer their system; 32% of Canadians choose their own), providing a hospital bed (40% of Americans pick their system; 46% of Canadians select their own), and allowing a patient to have access to a trained specialist (45% of Americans prefer their system; 41% of Canadians choose their own).

KEY FINDINGS

- **Canadians think the U.S. health care system would be more effective than their own to perform a surgery as soon as possible**
- **Americans split on whether U.S. or Canada is best at providing prescription drugs**
- **24% of Canadians know somebody who traveled outside Canada to have access to health care services, compared to 15% of Americans**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From July 28 to July 31, 2009, Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among 1,010 randomly selected Canadian adults who are Angus Reid Forum panelists, and 1,005 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1% for Canada, and +/- 3.1% for the United States. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Canada and the US. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

CONTACT:

Jaideep Mukerji, Vice President, Public Affairs, 514-409-0462, jaideep.mukerji@angus-reid.com



On two other issues, the numbers shift drastically. Canadians concede that the American health care system would be more effective at performing a surgery as soon as possible (41%), and Americans are evenly divided on which health care system would be better at providing prescription drugs (29% for each one).



Paying Out of Pocket

Two-in-five Canadians (40%) say they would pay out-of-pocket to have access to health care services in another country if they could—a view shared by 28 per cent of Americans. In fact, one-in-four Canadians (24%) know somebody who traveled outside Canada to have access to health care services, compared to only 15 per cent of Americans.

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Health Care		
CANADA AND UNITED STATES - What is your overall impression of the health care system in Canada?		
	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 
Very positive	13%	13%
Moderately positive	52%	30%
Moderately negative	23%	12%
Very negative	9%	15%
Not sure	2%	31%



Health Care		
CANADA AND UNITED STATES - What is your overall impression of the health care system in the United States?		
	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 
Very positive	2%	5%
Moderately positive	7%	26%
Moderately negative	32%	34%
Very negative	47%	31%
Not sure	12%	4%

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Health Care

CANADA AND UNITED STATES - Suppose you became sick today. From what you have seen, read or heard, which of these two health care systems would be more effective to deal with each one of the following issues? - **Pinpoint the exact cause of your ailment**

	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 
The Canadian health care system	32%	11%
The American health care system	17%	37%
Both equally	36%	32%
Not sure	15%	20%

Health Care

CANADA AND UNITED STATES - Suppose you became sick today. From what you have seen, read or heard, which of these two health care systems would be more effective to deal with each one of the following issues? - **Provide prescription drugs to make you feel better**



	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 
The Canadian health care system	61%	29%
The American health care system	4%	29%
Both equally	25%	28%
Not sure	9%	14%

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Health Care

CANADA AND UNITED STATES - Suppose you became sick today. From what you have seen, read or heard, which of these two health care systems would be more effective to deal with each one of the following issues? - **Allow you to have access to a trained specialist**

	CANADA	UNITED STATES
		
The Canadian health care system	41%	16%
The American health care system	27%	45%
Both equally	21%	22%
Not sure	11%	18%

Health Care

CANADA AND UNITED STATES - Suppose you became sick today. From what you have seen, read or heard, which of these two health care systems would be more effective to deal with each one of the following issues? - **If required, perform surgery as soon as possible**



	CANADA	UNITED STATES
		
The Canadian health care system	32%	16%
The American health care system	41%	47%
Both equally	14%	20%
Not sure	12%	18%

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Health Care

CANADA AND UNITED STATES - Suppose you became sick today. From what you have seen, read or heard, which of these two health care systems would be more effective to deal with each one of the following issues? - **Provide a hospital bed for you if you needed one**



	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 
The Canadian health care system	46%	19%
The American health care system	23%	40%
Both equally	21%	24%
Not sure	12%	17%

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Health Care



CANADA AND UNITED STATES - If you could, would you pay out-of-pocket to have access to health care services in another country?

	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 
Yes	40%	28%
No	31%	40%
Not sure	28%	32%

Health Care

CANADA - Have you, or anybody you know, traveled outside Canada to have access to health care services?

UNITED STATES - Have you, or anybody you know, traveled outside the United States to have access to health care services?

	CANADA 	UNITED STATES 
Yes	24%	15%
No	72%	82%
Not sure	5%	3%

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Angus Reid Strategies is a full-service polling and market research firm which 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 Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995.

Angus Reid Strategies, along with its sister company, Vision Critical, is now the largest Canadian-owned market research enterprise. 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 Strategies 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 recruited via an industry-leading process that incorporates a randomized, widespread invitation approach and a triple opt-in screening procedure. The panels are maintained through state-of-the-art sampling techniques and frequent verifications of personal identity, contact information, and demographic characteristics. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses.

Angus Reid Strategies, 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.

http://angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/2008.10.15_Election.pdf

Since 2006, Angus Reid Strategies 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.

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More information on the way Angus Reid Strategies conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/ARS.ARF.WP.pdf>

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

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:
www.angusreidstrategies.com**

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