

INSITE

Canadians Tend to Support Insite, Believe in “Harm Reduction”

Some misconceptions about facility remain: 19% mistakenly believe that Insite provides drugs to users.

[VANCOUVER – Aug. 20, 2008] – Roughly two-in-five Canadians support the operations of the first legal supervised injection site in North America and believe in the concept of "harm reduction", an Angus Reid Strategies poll has found.

In the online survey of a Canadians, 38 per cent support Insite—a facility that has operated in Vancouver since 2003—while 23 percent oppose it and 39 percent are undecided.

In British Columbia and Alberta, more than 50 percent of you expressed support for Insite. In all other regions, at least 40 percent of respondents are not sure.

Respondents were provided with a brief explanation of the concept of "harm reduction" and asked whether they believe in it. Roughly two-in-five (38%) are in favour of the rationale, including 42 percent of women, 46 percent of BC residents and 54 percent of Albertans.

Three-in-ten Canadians (31%) disagree with "harm reduction", with the highest opposition coming in Quebec (38%) and among respondents aged 55 and over (36%).

Few Canadians believe "harm reduction" should be the primary emphasis for policy makers who want to tackle drug addiction in Canada (5%), with significantly larger proportions opting for education and

KEY FINDINGS

- **38% support Insite's operations, 23% opposed**
- **38% believe in "harm reduction" strategies, 31% do not**
- **45% want policy makers to focus on education and prevention in dealing with drug addiction, 5% choose "harm reduction", 44% want both equally**
- **19% mistakenly believe that Insite provides drugs**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From August 15 to August 18, 2008 Angus Reid Strategies conducted an online survey among a randomly selected, representative sample of **1,005 adult Canadians**. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- **3.1 %**, **19 times out of 20**. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Canada. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding*

prevention (45%) or an approach that focuses on education and prevention as well as "harm reduction" equally.

The survey also asked respondents about the features that are available to users at Vancouver's Insite facility. While at least two-thirds of respondents correctly identified that Insite provides sterile injection equipment, information about drug addiction, access to medical staff and treatment referrals, 19 percent of respondents mistakenly think that Insite provides drugs—such as heroin, cocaine and morphine—to users.
