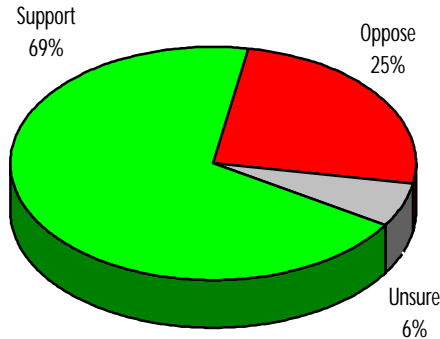


Decriminalizing Marijuana (N=1,000)



COMMENTARY

Overall, seven of every ten Canadians (69%) support the decriminalization of marijuana, while only one of every four (25%) oppose (6% are unsure).

The only real pockets of resistance to decriminalization is among Canadians over 60 years of age and Canadian Alliance voters (38% oppose).

Conversely, supporters of the NDP and the Bloc Quebecois were the most likely to support decriminalization (NDP – 78% support, BQ – 76%).

THE QUESTION

The Canadian government will likely bring in legislation this year to de-criminalize marijuana possession where individuals would receive fines rather than jail terms for the possession of small amounts of marijuana. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose giving fines rather than jail sentences for marijuana possession?

Target Groups (+/- index score)	Support	Oppose	Unsure
Atlantic	+4	-2	-2
Quebec	+1	-1	0
Ontario	0	-1	+2
West	-2	+4	-1
Men	-1	+2	-1
Women	+1	-1	0
18 to 29	+2	0	-2
30 to 39	+3	-3	0
40 to 49	-1	+1	0
50 to 59	+7	-4	-2
60 plus	-11	+9	+2
Liberal voters	+3	-3	0
CA voters	-13	+13	0
PC voters	-1	+4	-2
NDP voters	+9	-7	-2
BQ voters	+7	-6	-1
Undecided	-6	+5	+2

Note: Plus/minus index scores are based on the difference between the sub-group and the sample average. For example the -13 score noted above among CA voters indicates that they are 13 per cent less likely to support decriminalizing marijuana compared to the average Canadian voter. Readers should focus on scores greater than +/-5.

THE METHODOLOGY

Between February 2nd and February 11th, 2003, SES conducted a total of 1,000 telephone interviews across Canada with eligible voters as part of the SES National Quarterly Omnibus. Aggregate results of the survey are accurate ± 3.1%, 19 times out of 20.

Validation of the demographic profile of respondents indicates that the poll is a fair representation of Canadian voters.

ABOUT SES

Established in 1987, SES Canada Research Inc. is a full service public opinion research and management consulting firm.

In order to maximize turn-around time and increase efficiency, SES has a 110-line call centre complete with a predictive dialer. SES is regularly called upon by corporate, government and para-public clients in Canada and the United States to conduct research and provide strategic advice.

For more information on our full range of services please visit our website www.sesresearch.com or contact: Mr. Nikita Nanos at (613) 234-4666 ext.400 or nnanos@sesresearch.com