

NEWS RELEASE



Majority Approve of Safe Injection Sites but...

...half say they don't think a site would be welcomed in their neighbourhood

Toronto, April 11th, 2019 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1110 Torontonians 18 years of age or older, about two-thirds (64%) say they generally approve of safe injection sites in Toronto, with a quarter (26%) saying they disapprove. About 1 in 10 (11%) say they don't know.

The majority says their neighbours would disapprove if a safe injection site was opened within a kilometre of their home

Half (53%) don't believe their community would accept a safe injection site if one opened in their neighbourhood, saying that their neighbours would disapprove of such a siting.

Only one-fifth (19%) say their neighbours would approve if a safe injection site opened within a kilometer of their home, with a quarter (28%) saying they don't know.

Respondents that approve of safe injection sites in general are far more likely than average (28%) to believe their neighbours would approve of a site in their neighbourhood, and slightly less likely to believe they would disapprove (40%).

Respondents that disapprove of safe injection sites in general are far more likely than average (87%) to say that their neighbors would disapprove of a site in their neighbourhood, and far less likely to say they would approve (1%).

Two-thirds disapprove of the decision to withdraw funding from some sites

Two-thirds (65%) say they disapprove of the decision to withdraw funding from a number of sites in the city, with a quarter (26%) saying they approve.

1 in 10 (9%) say they don't know.

Majority think safe injection sites are effective at preventing opioid related deaths

Two-thirds (TOP2: 65%) say that safe injection sites are effective at reducing opioid related deaths, with 4 in 10 (37%) saying that they are very effective.

A quarter (BTM2: 23%) say that they are not effective, with about 1 in 10 (8%) saying they are not effective at all. 1 in 10 (12%) say they don't know whether they are effective or not at preventing opioid deaths.

MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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"It's true that the majority of Torontonians approve of safe injection sites in general, but it's also true that a majority says a site wouldn't be welcomed in their neighbourhood," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. "It suggests that people are conflicted on the issue: they know that safe injection sites serve a purpose, but they feel as though their community would prefer if the sites were outside of their own neighbourhood."



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Majority think safe injection sites are effective at preventing opioid related deaths

Almost half (TOP2: 65%) say that safe injection sites are effective at reducing opioid related deaths, with 4 in 10 (37%) saying that they are very effective.

A quarter (BTM2: 23%) say that they are not effective, with about 1 in 10 (8%) saying they are not effective at all. 1 in 10 (12%) say they don't know whether they are effective or not at preventing opioid deaths.

About half think people regularly use safe injection sites to access addictions information

About half (TOP2: 46%) say people regularly use safe injection sites to access information about addiction services, with about one-fifth (17%) saying they think they are used often.

About a quarter (BTM2: 23%) say they don't think people use safe injection sites for information about addiction services, with about 1 in 10 (10%) saying they think they are rarely, if ever used for this purpose.

Respondents that approve of safe injection sites in general, are far more likely (TOP2: 61%) than average to believe that safe injection sites are used to access addictions services information regularly.

Respondents that disapprove of safe injection sites in general, are far less likely than average (TOP2: 22%) to say that sites are used regularly for addiction services information, and are far more likely to say that they are not used regularly to access addiction information (BTM2: 50%).

A third (30%) say they do not know.

"It's true that the majority of Torontonians approve of safe injection sites in general, but it's also true that a majority says a site wouldn't be welcomed in their neighbourhood," said Dr. Lorne Bozinoff, President of Forum Research. "It suggests that people are conflicted on the issue: they know that safe injection sites serve a purpose, but they feel as though their community would prefer if the sites were outside of their own neighbourhood."

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at lbozinoff@forumresearch.com or at (416) 960-9603.



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Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1110 randomly selected Toronto voters. The poll was conducted between April 9-10, 2019.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate. Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at forumpoll.com.



Top2/Btm2 (or 3 or 4 where applicable) refers to the combined results of the most answered positive and negative responses:

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	631	112	91	133	119	176	303	315
NET: TOP3	66	57	60	68	78	86	67	64
NET: BTM3	34	43	39	32	21	14	32	36
Very satisfied	9	9	6	6	13	20	11	8
Satisfied	28	17	29	35	32	45	25	31
Somewhat satisfied	28	31	26	28	32	20	31	25
Somewhat dissatisfied	12	11	16	14	11	8	13	12
Dissatisfied	11	15	15	9	5	3	9	13
Very dissatisfied	11	18	9	8	5	3	9	12
Don't know	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0

Top 3 here collects very satisfied, satisfied, and somewhat satisfied into one category, and Btm 3 collects very dissatisfied, dissatisfied, and somewhat dissatisfied.

Due to rounding some numbers may not add up to 100

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General approval of safe injection sites

Generally, do you approve or disapprove of safe injection sites in Toronto?

Age/gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1110	191	185	197	236	301	575	514
Approve	64	62	67	61	62	66	62	65
Disapprove	26	26	26	26	28	21	29	23
Don't know	11	12	7	13	10	13	9	13

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1110	68	97	120	126	125	276
Approve	64	58	65	52	51	70	76
Disapprove	26	16	20	36	35	24	19
Don't know	11	25	14	12	15	7	5

Community

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	1110	363	113	195	182	53	204
Approve	64	76	70	59	60	62	54
Disapprove	26	15	19	29	27	26	35
Don't know	11	8	11	12	14	12	11

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1110	100	233	462	315
Approve	64	62	54	64	71
Disapprove	26	23	33	27	19
Don't know	11	15	13	9	10



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Method of commute to work/school

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	1110	470	324	45	54	16	201
Approve	64	58	68	69	76	51	65
Disapprove	26	33	19	28	15	27	21
Don't know	11	9	13	4	9	22	14



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Withdrawal of funding

Do you approve or disapprove of the provincial government's decision to withdraw funding from a number of sites in the city?

Age/gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1110	191	185	197	236	301	575	514
Approve	26	31	26	26	24	19	33	20
Disapprove	65	63	68	64	63	69	60	70
Don't know	9	6	7	10	13	12	7	10

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1110	68	97	120	126	125	276
Approve	26	28	25	29	35	27	21
Disapprove	65	60	63	57	57	67	75
Don't know	9	12	11	14	8	6	5

Community

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	1110	363	113	195	182	53	204
Approve	26	16	21	30	28	26	34
Disapprove	65	76	70	62	62	66	55
Don't know	9	8	8	8	9	7	11

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1110	100	233	462	315
Approve	26	32	27	27	22
Disapprove	65	57	62	65	71
Don't know	9	11	11	8	7



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Method of commute to work/school

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	1110	470	324	45	54	16	201
Approve	26	36	20	24	11	29	15
Disapprove	65	57	72	75	79	49	66
Don't know	9	7	8	1	10	22	18



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Effectiveness

In your opinion, how effective are safe injection sites at reducing opioid related deaths?

Age/gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1110	191	185	197	236	301	575	514
NET: TOP2	65	67	67	59	63	70	62	69
NET: BTM2	23	22	25	28	19	17	28	18
Very effective	37	44	35	32	30	41	35	40
Somewhat effective	28	24	32	27	33	28	27	29
Not very effective	15	12	19	18	14	12	19	11
Not effective at all	8	10	6	10	6	5	9	7
Don't know	12	11	8	13	18	14	11	13

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1110	68	97	120	126	125	276
NET: TOP2	65	69	70	58	62	66	77
NET: BTM2	23	13	22	25	26	22	17
Very effective	37	39	45	32	37	34	46
Somewhat effective	28	30	25	26	25	31	30
Not very effective	15	7	13	15	19	16	10
Not effective at all	8	5	9	10	7	6	6
Don't know	12	19	8	17	12	12	7

Community

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	1110	363	113	195	182	53	204
NET: TOP2	65	77	78	58	66	62	57
NET: BTM2	23	16	17	27	21	19	28
Very effective	37	50	38	33	40	28	28
Somewhat effective	28	27	40	25	26	34	29
Not very effective	15	10	12	19	13	11	19
Not effective at all	8	6	5	8	8	8	9
Don't know	12	7	5	15	13	19	15



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Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1110	100	233	462	315
NET: TOP2	65	68	59	64	71
NET: BTM2	23	23	27	22	20
Very effective	37	43	33	35	43
Somewhat effective	28	26	26	29	28
Not very effective	15	18	18	14	13
Not effective at all	8	5	9	8	7
Don't know	12	9	14	14	9

Method of commute to work/school

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	1110	470	324	45	54	16	201
NET: TOP2	65	61	71	63	74	55	64
NET: BTM2	23	30	13	34	16	38	19
Very effective	37	31	44	48	53	35	34
Somewhat effective	28	30	27	15	21	20	31
Not very effective	15	20	7	15	14	38	15
Not effective at all	8	10	6	19	2	0	4
Don't know	12	9	16	2	10	7	17



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Addiction services

How often do you think people use safe injection sites to access information about addiction services?

Age/gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1110	191	185	197	236	301	575	514
NET: TOP2	46	49	55	37	41	43	41	50
NET: BTM2	23	22	22	29	25	20	29	18
Often	17	18	20	13	17	15	16	17
Somewhat often	29	32	35	24	24	28	25	33
Not very often	13	12	12	17	14	13	16	11
Rarely, if ever	10	10	10	12	11	7	13	7
Don't know	30	29	23	33	34	37	30	32

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1110	68	97	120	126	125	276
NET: TOP2	46	27	59	46	40	45	53
NET: BTM2	23	18	17	20	36	23	20
Often	17	7	22	12	16	12	22
Somewhat often	29	20	37	33	25	33	31
Not very often	13	9	11	8	23	12	14
Rarely, if ever	10	8	6	12	13	11	6
Don't know	30	55	24	34	24	32	27



Community

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	1110	363	113	195	182	53	204
NET: TOP2	46	52	48	44	38	48	45
NET: BTM2	23	20	28	20	33	21	26
Often	17	19	17	13	18	21	18
Somewhat often	29	33	31	31	21	27	28
Not very often	13	12	19	9	20	7	15
Rarely, if ever	10	8	9	11	12	14	10
Don't know	30	28	25	36	29	31	29

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Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1110	100	233	462	315
NET: TOP2	46	26	55	43	50
NET: BTM2	23	27	17	24	25
Often	17	11	14	18	20
Somewhat often	29	15	42	25	30
Not very often	13	13	11	13	15
Rarely, if ever	10	14	6	11	9
Don't know	30	46	27	32	25

Method of commute to work/school

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	1110	470	324	45	54	16	201
NET: TOP2	46	42	52	67	58	31	35
NET: BTM2	23	29	18	16	10	29	21
Often	17	15	20	28	26	12	10
Somewhat often	29	28	32	39	33	19	25
Not very often	13	15	11	14	8	25	13
Rarely, if ever	10	15	7	2	2	4	8
Don't know	30	28	30	17	31	40	44



General approval of safe injection sites

%	Total	Q2 - Approve	Q2 - Disapprove	Q2 - Don't know
Sample	1110	730	262	118
NET: TOP2	46	61	22	18
NET: BTM2	23	12	50	26
Often	17	24	5	3
Somewhat often	29	37	16	15
Not very often	13	8	24	21
Rarely, if ever	10	4	27	5
Don't know	30	27	28	56

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Site in the neighbourhood

If a safe injection site opened less than a kilometer away from your home, and you asked your neighbor if they approved or disapproved of the location of this site, what do you think they would say?

Age/gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1110	191	185	197	236	301	575	514
Approve	19	22	18	16	17	20	20	18
Disapprove	53	55	54	54	56	43	54	52
Don't know	28	23	28	31	27	37	26	30

Income

%	Total	<\$20K	\$20-\$40K	\$40-\$60K	\$60-\$80K	\$80-\$100K	\$100-\$250K
Sample	1110	68	97	120	126	125	276
Approve	19	29	20	15	20	18	24
Disapprove	53	42	45	51	54	58	50
Don't know	28	29	35	34	26	24	26

Community

%	Total	Former City of Toronto	East York	North York	Etobicoke	York	Scarborough
Sample	1110	363	113	195	182	53	204
Approve	19	33	22	14	11	13	12
Disapprove	53	39	45	61	64	35	60
Don't know	28	28	33	25	25	52	28

Education

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate degree
Sample	1110	100	233	462	315
Approve	19	20	16	17	23
Disapprove	53	52	54	54	51
Don't know	28	28	30	28	26



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Method of commute to work/school

%	Total	Private vehicle	Public transit	Bicycle	Walking	Some other way	Don't travel to work or school
Sample	1110	470	324	45	54	16	201
Approve	19	15	23	27	31	21	16
Disapprove	53	62	48	38	35	42	46
Don't know	28	23	30	34	34	37	38

General approval of safe injection sites

%	Total	Q2 - Approve	Q2 - Disapprove	Q2 - Don't know
Sample	1110	730	262	118
Approve	19	28	1	9
Disapprove	53	40	87	46
Don't know	28	32	12	45

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