

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Just one eighth admit to viewing pornography

Most use pornography once a week or more

TORONTO JULY 19th, 2014 – In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1624 Canadians 18 years of age and older, one eighth admit to having purchased or viewed pornography in the past year (16%), while a further one quarter preferred not to answer (26%), which may stand as a proxy for admission of use. Admitted use is characteristic of the youngest (27%), males (26%), the wealthiest (22%), Atlantic Canada (21%) and BC (20%), Green Party supporters (23%), those with no religion (23%). Those with children are very slightly more likely to admit use (18%) than are those with no children in the house (15%).

One third of users view pornography once a week or more

The plurality of viewers say they view pornography about once a week or more often (35%). About one tenth claim to use it once a year or less often (11%). Frequent viewing is common to the youngest males in Atlantic Canada.

Two thirds view pornography alone

The majority, two thirds of viewers (62%) watch pornography alone, while about one seventh watch it with another person (14%). One tenth do both (12%).

Majority watch straight pornography only

More than one half of pornography viewers use straight, or heterosexual pornography only (men and women only - 56%), whereas about one fifth watch lesbian pornography only (18%). One tenth claim to watch homosexual pornography only (8%). Interestingly, few claim to watch more than one category (5%).

One half believe pornography is harmful

One half of Canadian adults believe pornography is harmful to society (50%), while more than a third think it is not (36%). One seventh don't have an opinion (14%). Belief pornography harms society is common to the oldest (70%), females (63%), lower income groups (\$20K to \$40K - 60%), in Ontario (54%), among Conservative voters (56%), among Protestant (62%) and Evangelical Christians (84%), but not especially Catholics (51%), among non-Christians (66%) but not among the non-religious (31%), among mothers (56%) and among those who claim not to have viewed pornography (63%).

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TORONTO July 19th, 2014 HIGHLIGHTS:

- One eighth admit to having purchased or viewed pornography in the past year (16%), while a further one quarter preferred not to answer (26%), which may stand as a proxy for admission of use.
- The plurality of viewers say they view pornography about once a week or more often (35%).
- The majority, two thirds of viewers (62%) watch pornography alone, while about one seventh watch it with another person (14%).
- More than one half of pornography viewers use straight, or heterosexual pornography only (men and women only - 56%), whereas about one fifth watch lesbian pornography only (18%).
- One half of Canadian adults believe pornography is harmful to society (50%), while more than a third think it is not (36%).



One half would favour online pornography restrictions

Just more than half our sample of Canadian voters would support a law requiring internet service providers (ISPs) to restrict access to pornography online, so that only adults who "opted in" could view it (52%). One third oppose this idea (34%) and one seventh has no opinion (14%). Opposition to this idea is characteristic of the youngest (46%), males (48%), the wealthiest (44%), in BC (40%) but not in Alberta (28%), among Green Party voters (43%), the best educated (post grad - 40%), those who are not religious (48%) and those who have viewed pornography in the past year (71%) and think it is not harmful to society (59%).

"We pride ourselves as Canadians on our open-mindedness, but even with the anonymity guaranteed by the IVR survey method, it would appear there is substantial under-reporting of pornography use. While uncommon among females, certainly, it must be assumed that more than one quarter of Canadian males have encountered pornography in the past year. What is interesting though, is what those who claim to use pornography tell us about how they use it. Relatively frequently, so not a novelty item. Mostly alone, so probably not a sex aid, and always (or almost always) the same kind, so not a smorgasbord. Moreover, those who claim to use pornography resent any attempt by the state to interfere with their access. To users, this is an area where personal liberty trumps the concerns of the state," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Just more than half our sample of Canadian voters would support a law requiring internet service providers (ISPs) to restrict access to pornography online, so that only adults who "opted in" could view it (52%).
- "We pride ourselves as Canadians on our openmindedness, but even with the anonymity guaranteed by the IVR survey method, it would appear there is substantial under-reporting of pornography use. While uncommon among females, certainly, it must be assumed that more than one quarter of Canadian males have encountered pornography in the past year. What is interesting though, is what those who claim to use pornography tell us about how they use it," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.



Methodology

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1624 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on July 18th, 2014.

Results based on the total sample are considered accurate +/- 2%, 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 www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp

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Pornography Use Past Year

'We are going to ask a series of very personal questions. If you'd prefer not to answer, just press 9. Have you viewed or purchased pornography in the past year? Just press 9 if you prefer not to answer.'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1624	139	166	278	459	582	747	877
Yes	16	27	22	10	9	5	26	6
No	58	41	53	62	71	74	44	70
Prefer not to answer	26	32	25	28	21	21	29	23

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС	English	French
Sample	1624	128	363	613	116	186	218	1300	324
Yes	16	21	16	14	16	16	20	16	17
No	58	61	58	58	46	59	58	58	59
Prefer not to answer	26	19	25	28	38	25	22	27	24

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
Sample	1624	453	615	269	88	67	61
Yes	16	14	15	17	23	18	23
No	58	63	54	60	49	59	55
Prefer not to answer	26	24	30	23	27	24	22

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non- Christian	None
Sample	1624	1191	472	69	530	120	91	342
Yes	16	13	10	8	16	18	11	23
No	58	62	64	76	60	53	48	50
Prefer								
not to	26	25	26	16	24	29	40	26
answer								

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Frequency of Pornography Use

'How often do you view pornography? Just press 9 if you prefer not to answer.'

[Have viewed pornography in the past year]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	169	39	39	26	35	30	140	29
About once a year or less often	11	12	9	3	19	27	7	29
Every few months	23	12	30	39	27	33	19	38
Every few weeks	16	16	15	23	16	10	16	16
About once a week or more often	35	44	31	20	25	19	43	3
Prefer not to answer	15	16	16	14	13	10	15	14

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС	English	French
Sample	169	19	39	55	11	19	26	132	37
About once a year or less often	11	13	15	9	6	2	17	10	15
Every few months	23	8	19	21	37	29	30	24	19
Every few weeks	16	6	15	19	38	24	2	16	15
About once a week or more often	35	62	31	35	9	36	33	35	33
Prefer not to answer	15	11	19	16	11	9	17	14	19

Federal Vote Preference

•							
%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
Sample	169	42	59	32	13	7	9
About once a year or less often	11	15	6	9	22	33	3
Every few months	23	15	19	34	7	35	33
Every few weeks	16	23	16	22	8	3	0
About once a week or more often	35	27	39	25	56	18	63
Prefer not to answer	15	19	20	11	7	11	0

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Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non- Christian	None
Sample	169	101	29	4	52	16	11	57
About once a year or less often	11	12	14	0	14	6	35	8
Every few months	23	33	30	20	36	28	16	10
Every few weeks	16	12	20	25	10	7	6	22
About once a week or more often	35	25	21	55	24	26	40	48
Prefer not to answer	15	18	15	0	17	33	4	12

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Pornography Use Behaviour: Single/Multiple Viewers

'Do you usually view pornography alone or with someone else? Just press 9 if you prefer not to answer.'

[Have viewed pornography in the past year]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	169	39	39	26	35	30	140	29
View it alone	62	67	55	58	68	62	67	44
View it with someone else	14	8	23	20	13	18	13	21
Both	12	17	5	15	9	3	12	11
Prefer not to answer	11	8	17	7	10	17	8	24

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС	English	French
Sample	169	19	39	55	11	19	26	132	37
View it alone	62	60	73	59	63	68	51	60	72
View it with someone else	14	12	12	14	0	14	27	15	12
Both	12	19	9	12	14	11	13	13	9
Prefer not to answer	11	9	7	15	23	7	9	12	7

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
Sample	169	42	59	32	13	7	9
View it alone	62	64	73	53	57	48	66
View it with someone else	14	21	6	11	32	35	7
Both	12	3	8	23	11	18	25
Prefer not to answer	11	11	14	14	0	0	3

Religion

%	Total	Christ ian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catho lic	Other Christian	Non- Christian	None
Sample	169	101	29	4	52	16	11	57
View it alone	62	59	75	20	56	52	73	67
View it with someone else	14	20	13	25	24	16	16	7
Both	12	10	4	55	9	14	7	15
Prefer not to answer	11	11	7	0	12	18	4	12

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Pornography Use Behaviour: Gender of Actors

'Do you usually view pornography depicting men and women, men only or women only? Just press 9 if you prefer not to answer.'

[Have viewed pornography in the past year]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	169	39	39	26	35	30	140	29
Men and women	56	58	52	49	68	51	54	62
Men only	8	10	6	8	6	4	9	5
Women only	18	15	23	17	12	28	22	2
All equally	5	5	2	8	5	3	4	7
Prefer not to answer	14	11	17	17	10	14	11	25

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС	English	French
Sample	169	19	39	55	11	19	26	132	37
Men and women	56	44	51	51	79	62	67	56	54
Men only	8	30	1	15	0	0	0	10	1
Women only	18	17	31	14	12	3	17	14	28
All equally	5	2	10	2	0	15	0	3	9
Prefer not to answer	14	6	8	18	9	20	16	16	8

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
Sample	169	42	59	32	13	7	9
Men and women	56	41	49	76	80	56	46
Men only	8	9	3	7	16	0	26
Women only	18	43	16	2	4	11	25
All equally	5	1	8	2	0	22	0
Prefer not to answer	14	6	23	12	0	11	3

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Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non- Christian	None
Sample	169	101	29	4	52	16	11	57
Men								
and	56	50	43	20	54	56	59	63
women								
Men	8	8	0	0	10	18	0	9
only	· ·	· ·	U	O	10	10	O	3
Women	18	20	42	8	12	20	37	12
only	10	20	72	O	12	20	37	12
All	5	5	4	47	2	6	0	5
equally	3	3	4	47	2	U	U	3
Prefer								
not to	14	16	10	25	23	0	4	11
answer								



Pornography's Effect on Society

'Do you believe pornography is harmful to society or not?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1624	139	166	278	459	582	747	877
Harmful to society	50	39	42	51	57	70	36	63
Not harmful to society	36	51	44	34	27	16	47	26
Don't know	14	11	14	16	16	14	17	11

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС	English	French
Sample	1624	128	363	613	116	186	218	1300	324
Harmful to society	50	49	45	54	49	50	48	51	45
Not harmful to society	36	40	42	32	36	32	40	35	42
Don't know	14	12	12	14	16	18	12	14	13

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
Sample	1624	453	615	269	88	67	61
Harmful to society	50	56	51	48	42	35	48
Not harmful to society	36	34	35	38	39	55	41
Don't know	14	10	15	14	19	10	11

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non- Christian	None
Sample	1624	1191	472	69	530	120	91	342
Harmful to society	50	56	62	84	51	44	66	31
Not harmful to society	36	30	26	13	35	35	27	53
Don't know	14	14	12	3	14	20	7	16

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Law Requiring Internet Service Providers to Block Pornography

'Would you favour or oppose a law requiring all internet service providers to block pornography, requiring users to opt in or check a box if they wished to view pornography online?'

[All Respondents]

Age / Gender

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1624	139	166	278	459	582	747	877
Would favour this	52	41	51	58	56	60	39	64
Would oppose this	34	46	39	28	25	22	48	21
Don't know	14	12	10	14	18	19	13	16

Region / Language

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	ВС	English	French
Sample	1624	128	363	613	116	186	218	1300	324
Would favour this	52	48	53	54	48	50	47	51	53
Would oppose this	34	39	35	31	36	28	40	33	35
Don't know	14	12	12	15	17	22	12	15	11

Federal Vote Preference

%	Total	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other
Sample	1624	453	615	269	88	67	61
Would favour this	52	60	49	52	39	61	45
Would oppose this	34	29	35	36	43	29	46
Don't know	14	12	15	13	18	10	8

Religion

%	Total	Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non- Christian	None
Sample	1624	1191	472	69	530	120	91	342
Would								
favour	52	58	58	79	58	51	46	38
this								
Would								
oppose	34	28	28	15	28	34	37	48
this								
Don't know	14	14	15	6	15	15	17	14

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