

# NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **One-in-Seven May Be Alcoholic**

### **One Twentieth Admit Problem; One Tenth Won't Answer**

TORONTO MAY 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1694 Canadians 18 years of age and older, one twentieth admit to being alcoholics (4%), while a further one tenth prefer not to answer (11%) for a total of about one seventh who may be considered to have a drinking problem. Admitting to alcoholism is especially common to the youngest (11%), males (7%), the least wealthy (a proxy for age - 18%), in Atlantic Canada (7%), the prairies (8%) and Alberta (9%). Conservative supporters are more likely to claim a problem with alcohol (7%) than Liberals (4%) or New Democrats (3%). Incidence is also high among non-Christians (11%).

Among those who claim to be alcoholics, there is a relatively even split between those who say they are in recovery and still practicing (30% and 41%, respectively. Caution: small base size). A further one quarter prefer not to answer (28%, caution: small base size).

"Conventional wisdom has said for years the alcoholic population comprises about 5% in society, but these findings show the figure may be higher than that," 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](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com) or at (416) 960-9603.

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#### **TORONTO**

**May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- One twentieth admit to being alcoholics (4%), while a further one tenth prefer not to answer (11%) for a total of about one seventh who may be considered to have a drinking problem. The Liberals would take an 8 seat majority of 63 seats, to 31 for the PCs.
- Among those who claim to be alcoholics, there is a relatively even split between those who say they are in recovery and still practicing (30% and 41%, respectively. Caution: small base size).
- "Conventional wisdom has said for years the alcoholic population comprises about 5% in society, but these findings show the figure may be higher than that," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

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**TORONTO****May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014****Methodology**

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1694 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age and older. The poll was conducted on May 22-23<sup>rd</sup>, 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](http://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](http://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp)

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**Alcoholism**

*'We are going to ask some personal questions you may prefer not to answer. If you'd prefer not to, just press 9. Are you an alcoholic?'*

[All Respondents]

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	1694	120	170	292	481	631	773	921
Yes	4	11	1	3	3	1	7	2
No	82	78	85	85	83	83	80	84
Don't know	2	4	3	2	1	2	3	2
Prefer not to answer	11	7	12	10	14	14	10	11

**Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	1694	128	397	643	122	190	214	1326	368
Yes	4	7	1	4	8	9	6	5	1
No	82	88	84	79	84	81	85	82	85
Don't know	2	1	2	4	0	2	2	3	2
Prefer not to answer	11	4	14	13	8	8	7	10	13

**Household Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	1694	166	303	268	194	140	252
Yes	4	18	1	1	1	0	3
No	82	65	83	84	91	84	90
Don't know	2	2	2	4	1	2	2
Prefer not to answer	11	14	14	11	7	14	5

**Federal Party Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	1694	496	562	342	102	74	61
Yes	4	7	4	3	9	1	0
No	82	81	83	83	81	79	89
Don't know	2	2	1	5	3	6	5
Prefer not to answer	11	10	13	9	7	14	7

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**Have Children / Mothers**

%	Total	Yes	No	Moms
Sample	1694	323	1371	155
Yes	4	4	5	1
No	82	82	82	84
Don't know	2	3	2	3
Prefer not to answer	11	10	11	12

**Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	1694	355	496	556	287
Yes	4	5	5	3	6
No	82	78	77	88	82
Don't know	2	1	5	2	1
Prefer not to answer	11	15	13	8	11

**Religion**

%	Total	NET: Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	1694	1237	449	71	591	126	75	382
Yes	4	3	1	5	5	0	11	6
No	82	82	86	85	78	89	73	84
Don't know	2	3	3	0	3	3	4	2
Prefer not to answer	11	12	11	11	15	8	13	7

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**Recovering / Practicing Alcoholics**

*'Are you a recovering alcoholic or are you a practicing alcoholic?'*

*[Alcoholics]*

**Age / Gender**

%	Total	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Male	Female
Sample	41	12	1	9	12	7	29	12
Recovering alcoholic	30	30	0	37	24	39	21	54
Practicing alcoholic	42	34	100	63	52	29	48	26
Prefer not to answer	28	35	0	0	24	31	32	20

**Region / Language**

%	Total	Atl	Que	ON	Man/Sask	AB	BC	English	French
Sample	41	4	5	12	3	10	7	36	5
Recovering alcoholic	30	0	31	34	0	78	10	30	31
Practicing alcoholic	42	34	56	43	95	22	28	41	56
Prefer not to answer	28	66	14	23	5	0	62	29	14

**Household Income**

%	Total	<20K	20-40K	40-60K	60-80K	80-100K	100-250K
Sample	41	13	3	4	3	1	6
Recovering alcoholic	30	27	0	39	0	0	21
Practicing alcoholic	42	31	65	40	80	100	79
Prefer not to answer	28	42	35	21	20	0	0

**Federal Party Preference**

%	Total	Cons	Lib	NDP	Green	Bloc	Other Parties
Sample	41	11	5	8	0	2	3
Recovering alcoholic	30	48	9	28	0	19	60
Practicing alcoholic	42	52	78	56	0	81	0
Prefer not to answer	28	0	14	16	0	0	40

**Have Children / Mothers**

%	Total	Yes	No	MOMs
Sample	41	8	33	1
Recovering alcoholic	30	19	36	0
Practicing alcoholic	42	42	41	100
Prefer not to answer	28	39	23	0

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### **Education**

%	Total	Secondary school or less	Some college or university	Completed college or university	Post graduate studies
Sample	41	10	15	8	8
Recovering alcoholic	30	46	31	5	42
Practicing alcoholic	42	15	25	71	55
Prefer not to answer	28	39	44	24	3

### **Religion**

%	Total	NET: Christian	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Other Christian	Non-Christian	None
Sample	41	25	5	2	18	0	4	12
Recovering alcoholic	30	40	14	87	35	0	30	22
Practicing alcoholic	42	44	69	13	47	0	20	46
Prefer not to answer	28	16	17	0	18	0	50	32

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