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CANADIAN VIEWS ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

[Ottawa – May 22, 2013] – A new poll commissioned by the Canadian Health Coalition (CHC) and the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) reveals that a clear majority of Canadians feel that access to prescription drugs should be based on the patient's medical needs, and most would support a universal drug plan to ensure that all Canadians are covered for medically necessary prescription drugs. The CHC and CFNU commissioned EKOS Research Associates to conduct a survey of Canadians' views on prescription drug coverage in Canada. The survey was conducted online with 1,041 Canadians from across the country. Fieldwork for the survey was conducted from May 2-8, 2013.

Results from the survey reveal that most Canadians paid less than \$1,000 for prescription drugs in the past year, although a sizeable minority (21%) indicated that they paid \$1,000 or more for prescriptions. Those 45 years of age and older are particularly likely to report spending \$1,000 or more on prescription drugs.

When asked if, in the past five years, there was a time they decided not to fill a prescription because of the cost, most Canadians (76%) indicated this was not the case. However, a significant minority of Canadians (23%) said this had occurred, particularly those earning less than \$20,000 in annual household income (49%), those with less than high school education (32%), and B.C. residents (32%).

When asked about their views regarding access to prescription drugs, a clear majority of Canadians (78%) felt that access to prescription drugs should be based on the patient's medical needs. Only about one in ten felt that access to prescription drugs should be based on the level of coverage of their provincial (territorial) and workplace plans (10%), or the patient's ability to pay (8%). B.C. (84%) and Ontario (81%) residents are particularly likely to feel that access to prescription drugs should be based on the patient's medical needs.

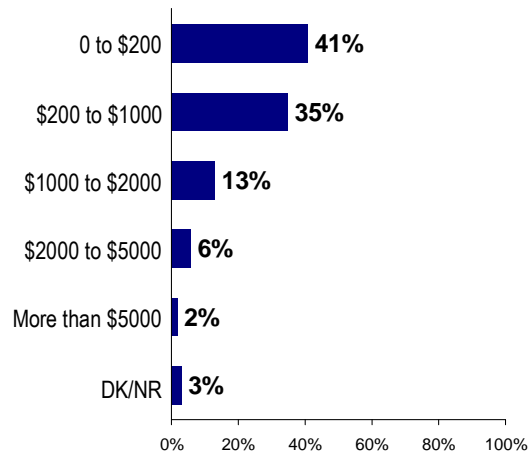
Canadians were informed that the price of prescription drugs is, on average, higher in Canada than in all other industrialized countries, except the United States. They were then asked if they would support bulk-purchasing of drugs combined with strong negotiations for lower prices with drug companies. Eight in ten Canadians (82%) support this idea and only 5% are opposed (13% are unsure). Support is highest among those 65 years of age and older (89%) and men (88%).

Finally, when asked if they support a universal public drug plan to ensure that all Canadians are covered for necessary prescription drugs, more than three-quarters (78%) support this idea, and fewer than one in seven (14%) are opposed (8% are unsure). Support for this idea is highest in B.C. (83%), among middle income earners (\$40,000-\$60,000 in annual household income-84%), and among those with high school education or less (82%).

Top Line Results:

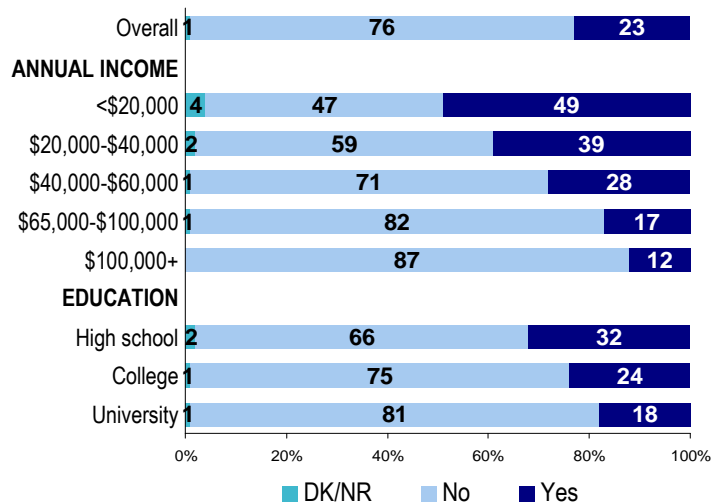
Amount Paid for Prescription Drugs

“How much did you pay for yourself, and your family, for prescription drugs in the last year?”



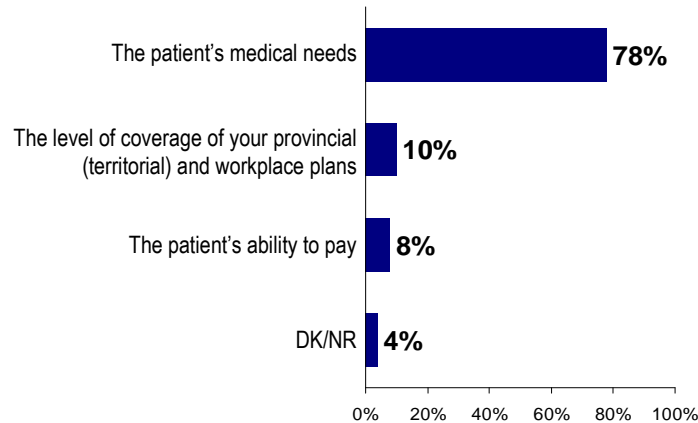
Inability to Pay For Prescriptions

“In the past five years, was there a time you decided not to fill a prescription because of the cost?”



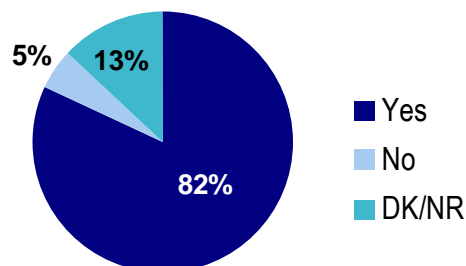
Views on Access to Prescription Drugs

“Because of the variety of public and private drug plans, Canadians do not all have access to the same prescription drugs to treat the same medical conditions. Which of these statements best reflect your point of view. Access to prescription drugs should be based on...?”



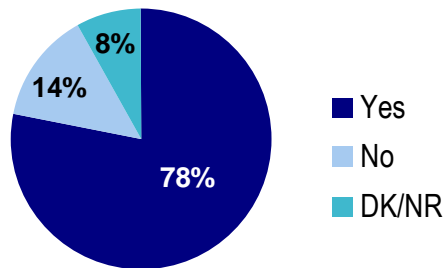
Support for Bulk Buy Purchasing of Drugs

“The price of prescription drugs is, on average, higher in Canada than in all other industrialized countries, except the United States. Would you support bulk-purchasing of drugs combined with strong negotiations for lower prices with drug companies?”



Support for Universal Public Drug Plan

“Do you support a universal public drug plan to ensure that all Canadians are covered for necessary prescription drugs? This means covering drugs the way we cover hospitals and doctors.”



Methodology:

This survey was conducted exclusively online using EKOS' unique online research panel, *Prob/t*. Our panel offers exhaustive coverage of the Canadian population (i.e., Internet, phone, cell phone), random recruitment (in other words, participants are recruited randomly, they do not opt themselves into our panel), and equal probability sampling. All respondents to our panel are recruited by telephone using random digit dialling and are confirmed by live interviewers. Unlike opt-in online panels, *Prob/t* supports margin of error estimates. We believe this to be the only probability-based online panel in Canada.

The field dates for the this survey are May 2-8, 2013. In total, a random sample of 1,041 Canadians aged 18 and over responded to the survey. The margin of error associated with the total sample is +/-3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. This survey was conducted online.

Please note that the margin of error increases when the results are sub-divided (i.e., error margins for sub-groups such as region, sex, age, education). All the data have been statistically weighted to ensure the samples composition reflects that of the actual population of Canada according to Census data.