

## Methodology:

Results are based on an online study conducted from May 7 to May 9, 2022, among 1,000 adults in Canada. The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian census figures for age, gender and region. The margin of error, which measures sample variability, is +/- 3.1 percentage points, nineteen times out of twenty.

**Regardless of whether or not you think each of the following issues should be legal, please indicate whether you personally believe they are morally acceptable.**

Contraception – 75% (-1)  
Divorce – 73% (-4)  
Sexual relations between an unmarried man and woman – 69% (-3)  
Having a baby outside of marriage – 69% (=)  
Physician-assisted death – 61% (-4)  
Sexual relations between two people of the same sex – 59% (-3)  
Abortion – 55% (-2)  
Medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos – 55% (=)  
Gambling – 52% (-5)  
The death penalty – 40% (+1)  
Buying and wearing clothing made of animal fur – 36% (-2)  
Pornography – 31% (=)  
Prostitution – 30% (-3)  
Medical testing on animals – 25% (+1)  
Cloning animals – 19% (=)  
Polygamy – 19% (=)  
Using illegal drugs – 18% (-2)  
Suicide – 18% (=)

## Few Canadians Think Marital Infidelity is Morally Acceptable

Across Canada, the moral acceptability of gambling and physician assisted death dropped since 2021.

Vancouver, BC [May 17, 2022] – Only one-in-six Canadians have no moral qualms about the existence of infidelity in a marriage, a new Research Co. poll has found.

The online survey of a representative national sample asked Canadians whether they considered 21 different issues as “morally acceptable” or “morally wrong.”

Only 16% of Canadians think married men and/or women having an affair is morally acceptable, down two points since a similar Research Co. poll [conducted in April 2021](#).

“Across Canada, more than one-in-five men (22%) think affairs involving married persons are morally acceptable,” says Mario Canseco, President of Research Co. “Only 10% of Canadian women share the same view.”

More than two thirds of Canadians think four other issues are morally acceptable: contraception (75%, -1), divorce (73%, -4), sexual relations between an unmarried man and woman (69%, -3) and having a baby outside of marriage (also 69%, =).

More than half of Canadians believe [sexual relations between two people of the same sex](#) (59%, -3), [abortion](#) (55%, -2) and medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos (also 55%, =) are morally acceptable. The proportions are lower for four other issues: pornography (31%, =), prostitution (30%, -3), polygamy (19%, =), cloning humans (12%, =) and paedophilia (4%, -1).

On issues related to animals, more than a third of Canadians (36%, -2) say [buying and wearing clothing made of animal fur](#) is morally acceptable, while fewer feel the same way about medical testing on animals (25%, +1) and cloning animals (19%, =).

Two-in-five Canadians (40%, -1) believe [the death penalty](#) is morally acceptable. Significantly fewer hold similar views on using illegal drugs (18%, -2) and suicide (also 18%, =).

Just over three-in-five Canadians (61%, -4) consider physician-assisted death as morally acceptable. Canadians aged 55 and over are more likely to feel this way (66%) than those aged 35-to-54 (58%) and aged 18-to-34 (57%).

Canadians of European descent are significantly more likely to say that physician-assisted death is morally acceptable (71%) than



*Married men and/or women having an affair – 16% (-2)  
Cloning humans – 12% (=)  
Paedophilia – 4% (-1)*

their counterparts whose origins are East Asian (49%) and South Asian (38%).

Just over half of Canadians (52%, -5) think gambling is morally acceptable.

Quebec is the only province where fewer than half of residents (48%) refer to gambling as morally acceptable. The proportions are higher in Saskatchewan and Manitoba (51%), Alberta and Ontario (each at 53%), Atlantic Canada (54%) and British Columbia (58%).

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**About Research Co.**

Simply put, we are curious about what people think and the decisions they will make. Some call it public opinion, others call it polling or public affairs. We never compromise facts for profit. Our agenda is the truth.

We have a global network of partners in the qualitative, data collection and data visualization specialities.

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