



PRESS RELEASE | Canada

Methodology:

Results are based on an online survey conducted from May 6 to May 8, 2024, 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, 19 times out of 20.

All things considered, do you support or oppose each of the following proposals?

Banning head shots in professional hockey

Support – 76% (-6)
Oppose – 14% (+3)
Not sure – 11% (+1)

Banning fighting in professional hockey

Support – 61% (+1)
Oppose – 30% (+1)
Not sure – 9% (-3)

An End to Fights in Professional Hockey Seen Positively in Canada

More than three-in-four Canadians—and four-in-five hockey fans—would ban head shots in the professional game.

Vancouver, BC [May 17, 2024] – By a 2-to-1 margin, Canadians are on side with the notion of outlawing fighting in professional hockey, a new Research Co. poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample, 61% of Canadians (+1 since a similar Research Co. poll [conducted in December 2021](#)) support banning fighting in professional hockey, while 30% (+1) are opposed and 9% (-3) are not sure.

Among Canadians who describe themselves as “hockey fans, who truly enjoy watching the game”, support for a ban on fighting in professional hockey reaches 50% (+4).

“Three-in-four Canadians of South Asian descent (75%) are willing to end fighting in professional hockey,” says Mario Canseco, President of Research Co. “Majorities of Canadians whose heritage is East Asian (64%), European (61%) or Indigenous (54%) share the same view.”

The notion of banning head shots in professional hockey remains popular, albeit at a lower level than in 2021. Three-in-four Canadians (76%, -6) and four-in-five “true fans” (81%, -8) voice support for this directive.

More than three-in-five Canadians (63%) and two thirds of “true fans” (67%) believe the game of hockey would be better off without head shots. Fewer Canadians and “true fans” (44% and 39% respectively) think the effect will be positive if fights are outlawed from hockey.

More than a quarter of Canadians (27%, =) believe professional hockey has become a more violent sport over the past five years. More than a third of Quebecers (37%) and Ontarians (35%) agree with this assessment. The proportions are lower in Atlantic Canada (33%), Saskatchewan and Manitoba (32%), British Columbia (29%) and Alberta (20%)

Some Canadians have developed a more negative attitude towards hockey in the past couple of years. One-in-four (25%, +5) would encourage their kids to avoid playing the sport as a result of recent violent incidents, and the same proportion (25%, =) would watch fewer hockey games than they currently do. A slightly smaller number of Canadians (24%, +4) would refrain from buying products from companies that sponsor professional hockey.



PRESS RELEASE | Canada

More than half of Canadians (57%, +5) believe the National Hockey League (NHL) is doing a “very good” or “good” job in looking after the safety of its players—a proportion that rises to 86% among “true fans”.

==30==

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.

==30==

Media contact:

Mario Canseco, President, Research Co.

[c] 778.929.0490

[e] mario.canseco@researchco.ca

==30==



mario.canseco@researchco.ca



[mario_canseco](https://twitter.com/mario_canseco)



778.929.0490



Mario Canseco