
CONTROLLING OURSELVES AND CONTROLLING THE CONTAGION: VISITING PEOPLE OUTSIDE YOUR HOMES DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD AND VIEWS ON LIMITING THE SPREAD OF THE CONTAGION OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

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INTRODUCTION

As Quebec Premier Francois Legault prepares to announce stricter measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, the latest Leger-ACS survey points out that nearly half of all Canadians visited with family or friends over the winter holiday period. The Leger/Association for Canadian Studies poll found 48 per cent of those surveyed visited with people outside their households at least once, while 52 per cent said that they never did. This despite the pleas of public health officials calling for contacts to be curtailed so as to avoid massive spikes in [COVID-19 cases](#). But amongst the 52% that said they never did such visits, half said that they knew someone that did. Such results strongly suggest that many Canadians gave the socially desired response to pollsters rather than admitting that they contravened the government directive. The Leger-ACS poll further reveals that the majority of Canadians are not confident about the prospects of limiting the spread of COVID-19 over the next few weeks and that is especially the case amongst Albertans and Quebecers. And finally, the ensuing analysis examines varying levels of anxiety around Covid 19 amongst those persons that admit having visited outside of their homes.

The survey was conducted between January 2 and 3 with 1506 Canadians. While no margin of error can be associated with a non-probability sample for comparative purposes, a probability sample of 1506 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$ 19 times out of 20.

ATLANTIC CANADIANS AND ONTARIANS SAY THEY WERE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THAT THEY VISITED FAMILY AND FRIENDS OUTSIDE OF THEIR HOMES OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD

Over the recent holiday period did you visit with family or friends that live outside your home?							
	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Never	52%	28%	54%	47%	58%	68%	61%
Rarely (once)	34%	27%	33%	40%	31%	27%	28%
Occasionally (2-3 times)	12%	41%	11%	11%	9%	4%	11%
Often (more than three times)	2%	4%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%

YOUNGER PEOPLE WERE THE MOST LIKELY TO SAY THAT THEY VISITED FAMILY AND FRIENDS OUTSIDE OF THEIR HOMES OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD

Over the recent holiday period did you visit with family or friends that live outside your home?						
	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+
Never	52%	54%	51%	39%	56%	58%
Rarely (once)	34%	32%	35%	40%	30%	33%
Occasionally (2-3 times)	12%	12%	12%	17%	11%	9%
Often (more than three times)	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	0%

AMONGST THOSE SAYING THEY NEVER VISITED FAMILY OR FRIENDS OUTSIDE OF THEIR HOMES OVER THE HOLIDAYS HALF SAY THEY KNOW SOMEONE THAT DID AND ATLANTIC CANADIANS AND QUEBECERS WERE THE MOST LIKELY TO SAY SO

Amongst those saying they never...Do you know someone that visited with family or friends outside their home?										
Sample saying they never visited family or friends outside of their home over the holidays	Total	French	English	Others	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
Yes	50%	60%	48%	46%	68%	57%	46%	42%	47%	52%
No	43%	33%	45%	47%	32%	36%	48%	55%	41%	41%
I don't know	7%	7%	7%	6%	0%	7%	7%	3%	12%	8%

ALBERTANS AND QUEBECERS ARE THE LEAST CONFIDENT IN THE ABILITY TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF THE CONTAGION IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

How confident are you that we will be able to limit the spread of COVID-19 over the next few weeks?							
	Total	Atl.	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC
TOTAL CONFIDENT	38%	59%	33%	39%	48%	31%	35%
Very confident	9%	15%	8%	9%	8%	10%	9%
Somewhat confident	29%	44%	25%	30%	39%	21%	26%
TOTAL NOT CONFIDENT	62%	41%	67%	61%	52%	69%	65%
Not so confident	43%	26%	49%	41%	44%	43%	48%
Not confident at all	19%	15%	18%	20%	9%	26%	17%

MAJORITY NOT CONFIDENT WITH THE ABILITY TO REDUCE CASES IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

How confident are you that we will be able to limit the spread of COVID-19 over the next few weeks?						
	Total	Man	Woman	18-34	35-54	55+
TOTAL CONFIDENT	38%	41%	35%	51%	35%	32%
Very confident	9%	11%	7%	14%	9%	7%
Somewhat confident	29%	29%	28%	38%	26%	25%
TOTAL NOT CONFIDENT	62%	59%	65%	49%	65%	68%
Not so confident	43%	40%	47%	38%	47%	43%
Not confident at all	19%	20%	18%	11%	18%	25%

THE MAJORITY OF CANADIANS THAT ACKNOWLEDGE MAKING SUCH VISITS ARE NOT CONFIDENT ABOUT OUR CAPACITY TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

How confident are you that we will be able to limit the spread of COVID-19 over the next few weeks?	Over the recent holiday period did you visit with family or friends that live outside your home?		
	Never	Rarely (once)	Occasionally (2-3 times)
Very confident	8.0%	9.0%	13.3%
Somewhat confident	27.7%	30.1%	31.1%
Not so confident	44.3%	44.0%	38.3%
Not confident at all	20.0%	16.9%	17.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF QUEBEC AND THE PRAIRIES THE MAJORITY OF PERSONS THAT DID ONE SUCH VISIT FAMILY OR FRIENDS VISIT OUTSIDE OF THEIR HOME ARE AFRAID OF CONTRACTING COVID-19.

Over the recent holiday period did you visit with family or friends that live outside your home?-		
Are you personally afraid of contracting the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)?	Never	Rarely (once)
Canada	67%	58%
Atlantic	75%	75%
Quebec	56%	39%
Ontario	74%	69%
Man/Sask	69%	48%
Alberta	58%	54%
BC	75%	51%

OVER ONE IN FOUR CANADIANS THAT MADE SUCH VISITS BELIEVE THAT THE WORST OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS IS YET TO COME

What statement best describes your personal opinion of the COVID-19 crisis for Canada?	Over the recent holiday period did you visit with family or friends that live outside your home?			Total
	Never	Rarely (once)	Occasionally (2-3 times)	
The worst of the crisis is behind us	8.3%	9.4%	20.1%	10.4%
We are in the worst period of the crisis now	49.6%	52.7%	43.6%	49.6%
The worst of the crisis is yet to come	32.3%	27.7%	29.1%	30.4%
I don't know / I prefer not to answer	9.9%	10.2%	7.3%	9.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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