



CBAN Public Opinion Study on GMOs

From April 21-24, 2022, on behalf of the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN), Pollara Strategic Insights conducted an online survey amongst a randomly-selected, reliable sample of N=1,517 adult Canadians. Online surveys do not permit the assignment of a margin of error. A probability sample of this size and design would carry a margin of error of +/- 2.5%, 19 times out of 20. The dataset has been weighted using standard statistical techniques to ensure that the sample accurately reflects the gender, age, and provincial distribution of the adult Canadian population according to the most recent Census.

P1. And, now some questions about genetically engineered food – also called genetically modified food...

Genetically modified plants and animals have had their DNA, or genetic material, changed in a laboratory. Scientists can remove genes from one plant, animal, or bacterium and insert these new genes into the DNA of another plant or animal, of a different species. They can also use new techniques called "gene editing" to delete genes in an organism or change how genes in a plant or animal behave.

These are often called genetically modified organisms or GMOs. Three GMOs have been used in food products since the mid-1990s – genetically modified soy, corn, and canola. Most processed food products sold in grocery stores today have these GMO ingredients, and there are also a few genetically modified fruits and vegetables on the market. These genetically modified foods have been reviewed for safety by government regulators. Overall, prior to this survey, how knowledgeable were you about genetically modified foods and genetically modified organisms (GMOs)?

	Region										Gender		Age		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	SK	MB	ON	PQ	ATL	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	
BASE: All Respondents	1517	193	148	101	40	61	558	420	97	704	813	278	542	697	
BASE: WEIGHTED	1517	198	170	100*	47*	53*	572	365	111*	741	776	434	525	558	
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	710	93	84	48	28	20	267	168	50	378	332	247	252	211	
	47%	47%	49%	48%	59%	38%	47%	46%	46%	51%	43%	57%	48%	38%	
				F	F	F				K		MN	N	N	
(4) Very knowledgeable - I know a lot about this subject	91	12	4	6	3	3	38	26	5	55	36	45	35	11	
	6%	6%	2%	6%	7%	5%	7%	7%	5%	7%	5%	10%	7%	2%	
												N	N	N	
(3) Moderately knowledgeable - I know some things about this subject	619	81	80	42	25	17	228	143	45	323	296	202	218	199	
	41%	41%	47%	42%	53%	32%	40%	39%	41%	44%	38%	46%	41%	36%	
				F	F	F						N	N	N	
(2) Not very knowledgeable - I've heard about this, but know few-to-no details	675	87	74	47	18	29	252	163	51	285	389	172	220	282	
	44%	44%	44%	47%	39%	54%	44%	45%	46%	39%	50%	40%	42%	51%	
											J			LM	
(1) Not knowledgeable at all - I'm completely unaware of this	132	18	12	5	1	4	53	34	9	78	54	15	52	65	
	9%	9%	7%	5%	2%	8%	9%	9%	8%	11%	7%	4%	10%	12%	
										K		L	L	L	
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	807	106	87	52	19	33	305	197	60	364	444	188	273	347	
	53%	53%	51%	52%	41%	62%	53%	54%	54%	49%	57%	43%	52%	62%	
						DE				J		L	L	LM	
MEAN	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.40	2.60	2.40	2.30	
				F	F	F						MN	N	N	
STD. DEV.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	
STD. ERR.	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D/E/F/G/H/I - J/K - L/M/N - O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V - W/X - Y/Z

Overlap formulae used. * small base

Comparison Groups

Independent T-Test for Means (equal variances), Independent Z-Test for Percentages (unpooled proportions)

Uppercase letters indicate significance at the 95% level.

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P2. And, overall, how concerned are you - if at all - about the safety of genetically modified foods and food products that contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs)?

	Region										Gender		Age		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	SK	MB	ON	PQ	ATL	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	
BASE: All Respondents	1517	193	148	101	40	61	558	420	97	704	813	278	542	697	
BASE: WEIGHTED	1517	198	170	100*	47*	53*	572	365	111*	741	776	434	525	558	
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	818	104	68	43	21	21	328	212	64	354	464	208	277	333	
	54%	53%	40%	42%	45%	40%	57%	58%	58%	48%	60%	48%	53%	60%	
		C					CDF	CDF	C		J			LM	
(4) Very concerned	257	41	20	14	6	7	102	65	16	105	152	61	88	108	
	17%	21%	12%	13%	13%	14%	18%	18%	14%	14%	20%	14%	17%	19%	
											J				
(3) Somewhat concerned	561	63	48	29	15	14	226	147	48	249	312	147	189	225	
	37%	32%	28%	29%	32%	26%	40%	40%	43%	34%	40%	34%	36%	40%	
							CF	C	C		J				
(2) Not very concerned	392	56	57	26	13	13	141	84	28	201	190	135	131	126	
	26%	28%	33%	25%	27%	24%	25%	23%	26%	27%	25%	31%	25%	23%	
			H									N			
(1) Not concerned at all	191	22	28	22	11	11	63	48	9	130	62	71	71	49	
	13%	11%	16%	22%	23%	20%	11%	13%	8%	17%	8%	16%	14%	9%	
			BGI	BGI	GI					K		N	N		
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	583	78	84	47	24	24	204	132	37	331	252	207	201	175	
	38%	39%	49%	47%	50%	44%	36%	36%	34%	45%	33%	48%	38%	31%	
			GHI	G						K		MN	N		
Don't know / Unsure	116	16	18	11	2	8	40	21	9	56	59	19	47	50	
	8%	8%	11%	11%	5%	16%	7%	6%	9%	8%	8%	4%	9%	9%	
						GH						L	L		
MEAN	2.60	2.70	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.50	2.80	2.50	2.60	2.80	
		CD					CDEF	CD	CD		J			LM	
STD. DEV.	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	
STD. ERR.	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D/E/F/G/H/I - J/K - LM/N - O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V - W/X - Y/Z

Overlap formulae used. * small base

Comparison Groups

Independent T-Test for Means (equal variances), Independent Z-Test for Percentages (unpooled proportions)

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P3. As you may know, in Canada, there is no requirement for food companies to label if a food or food product is genetically modified or contains genetically modified ingredients (GMOs). [ORDER OF NEXT 2 STATEMENTS WAS ROTATED EVERY OTHER RESPONDENT]

Companies that use GMOs say GMO labels on genetically modified foods would be misleading because labelling might make unknowledgeable consumers assume that the foods are unsafe.

Advocates for mandatory GMO labelling say that the labels are necessary to let consumers make informed decisions about the foods they eat.

Thinking about this... Overall, how much do you support or oppose Canada's federal government making it mandatory for food companies to label if their foods are genetically modified or contain genetically modified ingredients (GMOs)?

	Region									Gender		Age		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	SK	MB	ON	PQ	ATL	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
BASE: Total Answering	1517	193	148	101	40	61	558	420	97	704	813	278	542	697
BASE: WEIGHTED	1517	198	170	100*	47*	53*	572	365	111*	741	776	434	525	558
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	1034	149	96	61	28	33	396	255	77	479	556	253	366	416
	68%	75%	56%	61%	60%	62%	69%	70%	70%	65%	72%	58%	70%	75%
(5) Strongly support mandatory labelling	687	103	61	38	19	19	254	181	49	305	382	134	249	303
	45%	52%	36%	37%	40%	35%	44%	50%	44%	41%	49%	31%	47%	54%
(4) Somewhat support mandatory labelling	347	46	34	24	9	14	142	74	28	173	174	119	116	112
	23%	23%	20%	23%	20%	26%	25%	20%	25%	23%	22%	27%	22%	20%
(3) Neither support nor oppose mandatory labelling	278	29	48	19	7	11	106	62	14	144	135	110	85	84
	18%	15%	28%	19%	16%	21%	19%	17%	13%	19%	17%	25%	16%	15%
(2) Somewhat oppose mandatory labelling	70	6	5	11	6	5	20	22	7	40	30	37	20	14
	5%	3%	3%	11%	12%	10%	3%	6%	6%	5%	4%	8%	4%	2%
(1) Strongly oppose mandatory labelling	42	8	9	3	2	1	15	6	2	29	14	9	18	15
	3%	4%	5%	3%	5%	2%	3%	2%	1%	4%	2%	2%	4%	3%
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	112	14	14	14	8	6	34	27	9	69	44	46	38	29
	7%	7%	8%	14%	17%	12%	6%	8%	8%	9%	6%	11%	7%	5%
Don't know / Unsure	92	6	12	6	3	3	36	21	11	50	42	26	37	29
	6%	3%	7%	6%	7%	5%	6%	6%	10%	7%	5%	6%	7%	5%
MEAN	4.10	4.20	3.90	3.90	3.80	3.90	4.10	4.20	4.20	4.00	4.20	3.80	4.10	4.30
STD. DEV.	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0
STD. ERR.	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D/E/F/G/H/I - J/K - L/M/N - O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V - W/X - Y/Z

Overlap formulae used. * small base

Comparison Groups

Independent T-Test for Means (equal variances), Independent Z-Test for Percentages (unpooled proportions)

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P4. On a related matter... As you may know, Health Canada (a department of the federal government) has proposed allowing food companies to assess the safety of some genetically modified foods that they produce through a new technique called "gene editing" – rather than having Health Canada conduct this safety assessment, as they do now.

Specifically, genetically modified foods that have no DNA from other species (no "foreign DNA") would be exempt from government regulation regarding GMOs, and there would be no GMO-related safety reviews of these foods. These are foods that are produced through new gene editing techniques, whereby genes in a plant can be deleted or changed in terms of how they behave. Health Canada proposes that these foods be assumed to be safe unless companies discover a safety problem or risk.

Thinking about this, how much do you support or oppose Health Canada's proposal to allow food companies to assess the safety of some genetically modified foods (GMOs) that they produce through gene editing, rather than having Health Canada conduct the safety assessment?

	Region									Gender		Age		
	Total	BC	AB	MB/SK	SK	MB	ON	PQ	ATL	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
BASE: All Respondents	1517	193	148	101	40	61	558	420	97	704	813	278	542	697
BASE: WEIGHTED	1517	198	170	100*	47*	53*	572	365	111*	741	776	434	525	558
TOP 2 BOX (NET)	364	41	39	20	10	10	130	109	24	181	182	126	132	105
	24%	21%	23%	20%	21%	19%	23%	30%	22%	24%	24%	29%	25%	19%
								BG				N	N	
(5) Strongly support	147	15	11	8	6	3	51	52	10	77	71	39	57	51
	10%	8%	6%	8%	12%	5%	9%	14%	9%	10%	9%	9%	11%	9%
								BCG						
(4) Somewhat support	217	26	28	12	4	7	79	57	14	105	112	86	76	55
	14%	13%	17%	12%	10%	14%	14%	16%	13%	14%	14%	20%	14%	10%
												N	N	
(3) Neither support nor oppose	288	38	29	21	8	13	118	68	14	129	159	98	104	86
	19%	19%	17%	21%	16%	25%	21%	19%	13%	17%	20%	23%	20%	15%
												N		
(2) Somewhat oppose	281	36	41	22	8	14	91	69	23	152	129	77	94	110
	19%	18%	24%	22%	17%	25%	16%	19%	21%	21%	17%	18%	18%	20%
(1) Strongly oppose	414	63	39	25	13	12	169	81	38	212	202	63	146	205
	27%	32%	23%	25%	27%	23%	29%	22%	34%	29%	26%	15%	28%	37%
		H											L	LM
BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)	696	99	79	47	21	26	260	150	61	364	332	140	240	315
	46%	50%	47%	46%	44%	48%	45%	41%	55%	49%	43%	32%	46%	56%
										K			L	LM
Don't know / Unsure	170	21	23	13	9	4	64	37	12	67	103	70	48	52
	11%	10%	14%	13%	18%	8%	11%	10%	11%	9%	13%	16%	9%	9%
											J	MN		
MEAN	2.60	2.40	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.80	2.30	2.50	2.60	2.90	2.60	2.30
								BGI				MN	N	
STD. DEV.	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4
STD. ERR.	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D/E/F/G/H/I - J/K - L/M/N - O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V - W/X - Y/Z

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