



Report

Public Opinion on Possible Solutions for 2%



Dr. Peter
Centre

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Project: 10017754



Introduction



Background

The Dr. Peter Centre (DPC) transforms lives and empowers communities by delivering human-centered, holistic care. Their campus is a hub of innovation, setting the standard for complex health care in Canada and ensuring that the sidelined 2% receive the care they need.

DPC has partnered with Leger several times in the past few years to conduct research that examined public perceptions in areas related to their mandate. In 2026, we seek hard public opinion data on perceptions of the issue and a potential solution.

The data and insights provided by this research will be used to inform work around advocacy and policy discussions, public awareness campaigns, anti-stigma efforts and funding conversations. There is an intention to share this data with partners, including government.

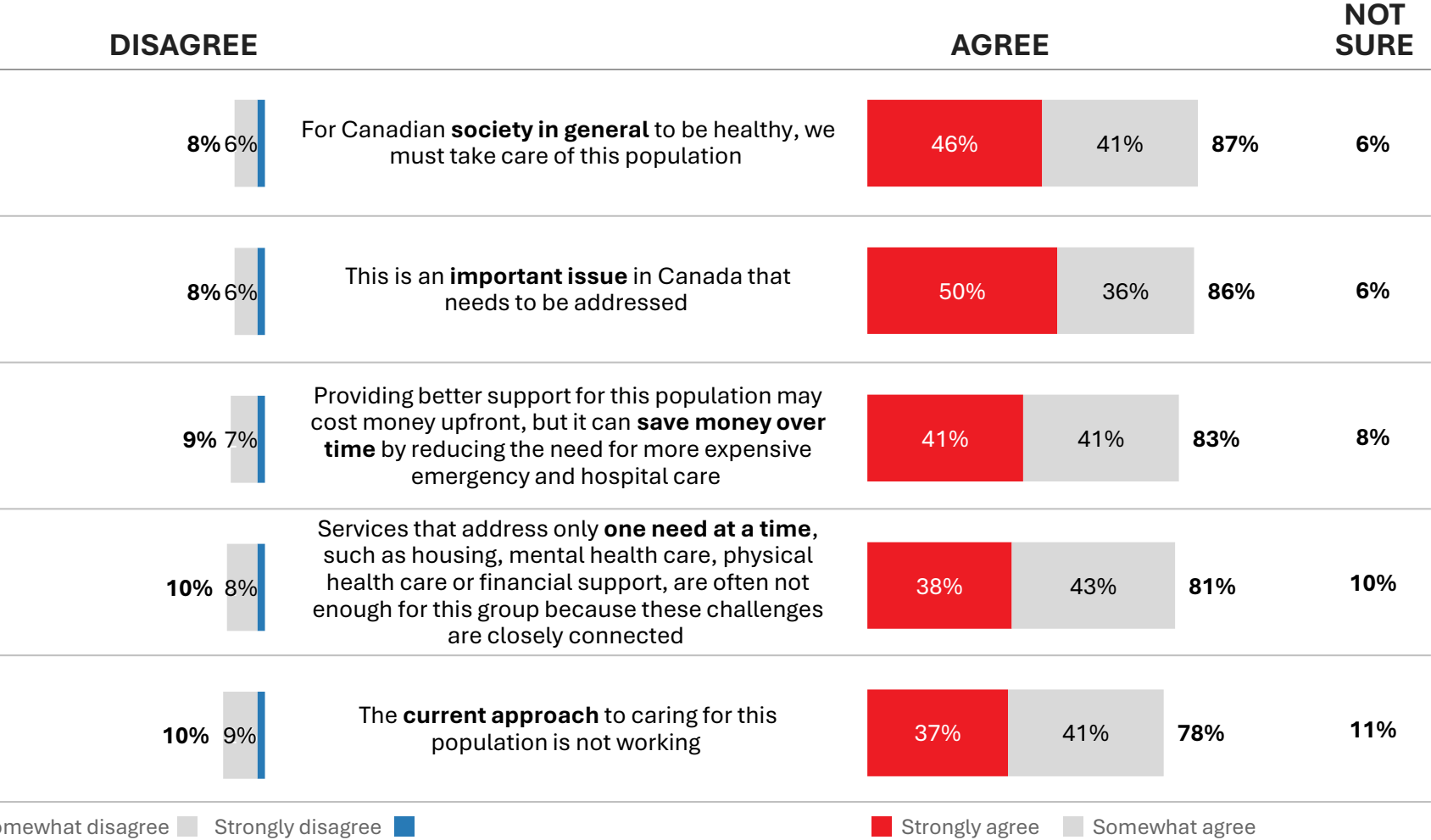
Methodology

- Online survey using Leger's Canadian omnibus.
- Fieldwork July 17-19, 2026.
- 1,532 completed surveys with a representative sample of Canadians.
- A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey, but for comparison purposes, a probability sample of 1,532 would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.
- Data was statistically weighted according to 2021 Census Canada figures.
- Since data presented in this report is rounded, sums in graphs and tables (based on actual figures before rounding) may not match the manual addition of rounded numbers.
- Statistical significance between subgroups (or specific subgroups, as denoted by initials for that subgroup) are shown as follows:

↑↓ Statistically significantly higher/ lower than comparison group(s)

Perceptions of Issue

“Approximately 750,000 Canadians, or about 2% of the population, live with multiple, overlapping health and social challenges, such as addiction, mental illness, homelessness or unstable housing, serious medical conditions and social isolation. Because their needs are often not met early or in a coordinated way, they are more likely to rely on hospitals, emergency services and crisis supports.



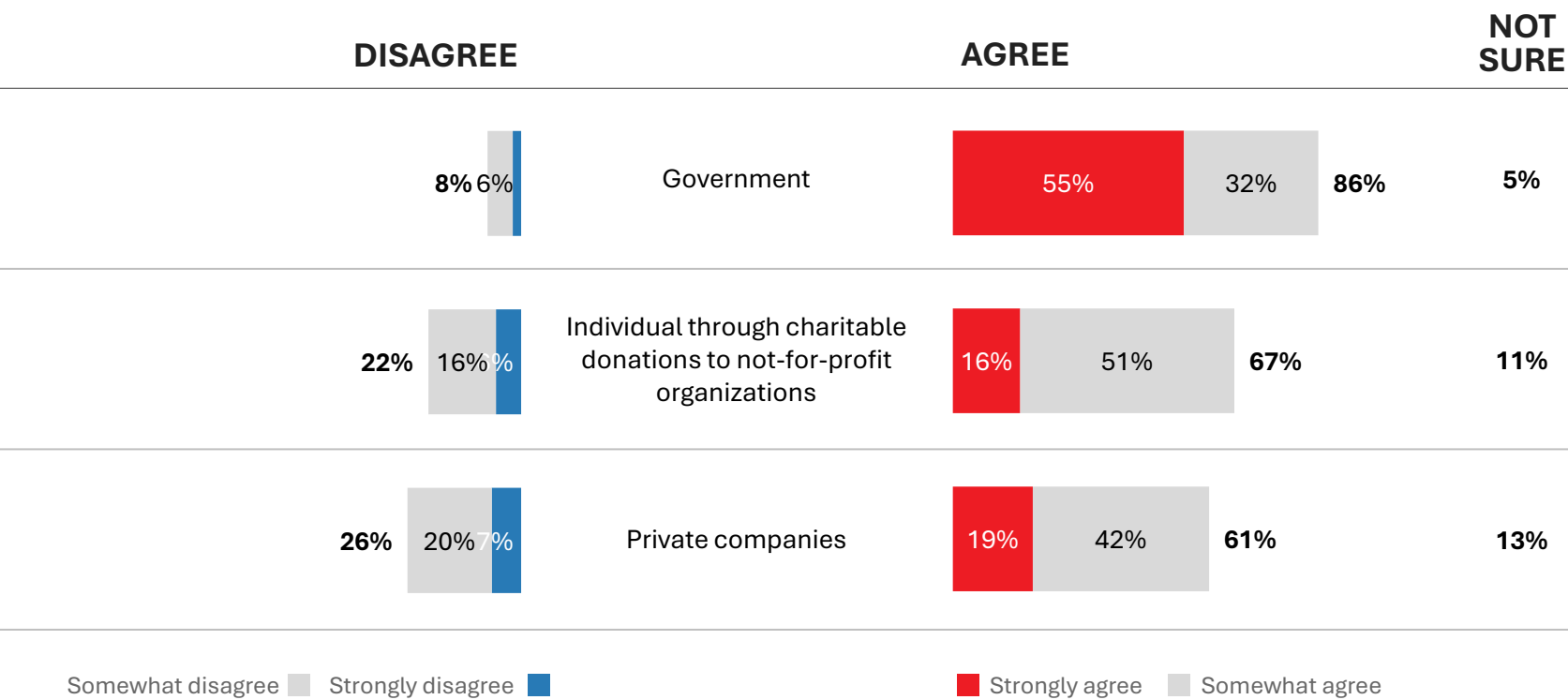
- A large majority of Canadians agree with all statements presented about the 2% population and more than one-third agree strongly with each.
- There is clearly wide-spread appreciation that there is an issue that needs to be addressed and that new solutions are needed.

Base: All respondents (n=1,532)
Please read the following carefully: Approximately 750,000 Canadians, or about 2% of the population, live with multiple, overlapping health and social challenges, such as addiction, mental illness, homelessness or unstable housing, serious medical conditions and social isolation. Because their needs are often not met early or in a coordinated way, they are more likely to rely on hospitals, emergency services and crisis supports.
To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following when it comes to this population?

Perceptions of Issue: Regional Differences (Total Agree)

	Canada	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QU	Atl.
	(n=1,532)	(n=151)	(n=136)	(n=127)	(n=610)	(n=408)	(n=100)
For Canadian society in general to be healthy, we must take care of this population	87%	82%	89%	79%	87%	89% ▲ MB/SK	90% ▲ MB/SK
This is an important issue in Canada that needs to be addressed	86%	81%	91% ▲ BC	82%	86%	87%	86%
Providing better support for this population may cost money upfront, but it can save money over time by reducing the need for more expensive emergency and hospital care	83%	77%	84%	78%	84%	85%	81%
Services that address only one need at a time , such as housing, mental health care, physical health care or financial support, are often not enough for this group because these challenges are closely connected	81%	81%	83%	77%	82%	77%	83%
The current approach to caring for this population is not working	78%	80%	78%	76%	76%	80%	84%

Perceived Responsibility to **Fund** Solutions to Take Care of Population

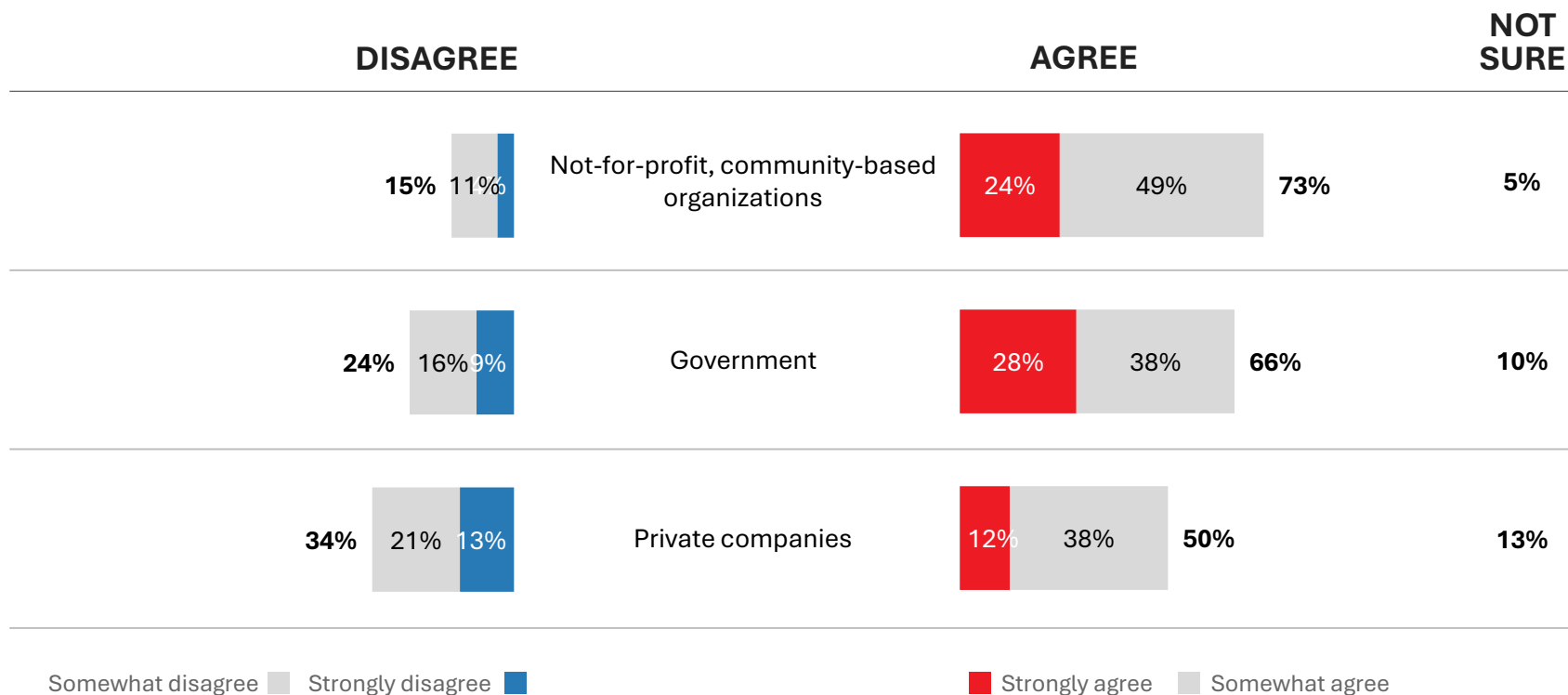


- There is a high level of agreement that governments should take responsibility to fund solutions to take care of this population, with over eight-in-ten agreeing, and over half agreeing strongly.
- A much smaller proportion feel that individuals through charitable donations and even fewer that private companies should take funding responsibility.

Perceived Responsibility to **Fund** Solutions to Take Care of Population: Regional Differences (Total Agree)

	Canada	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QU	Atl.
	(n=1,532)	(n=151)	(n=136)	(n=127)	(n=610)	(n=408)	(n=100)
Government	86%	86%	75% ON, QC, Atl. ↓	86%	88%	89%	89%
Individual through charitable donations to not-for-profit organizations	67%	63%	61%	62%	69%	72% AB ↑	64%
Private companies	61%	54%	60%	57%	64%	64%	51% ON, QC ↓

Perceived to Do a Good Job to **Implementing** Solutions to Take Care of Population



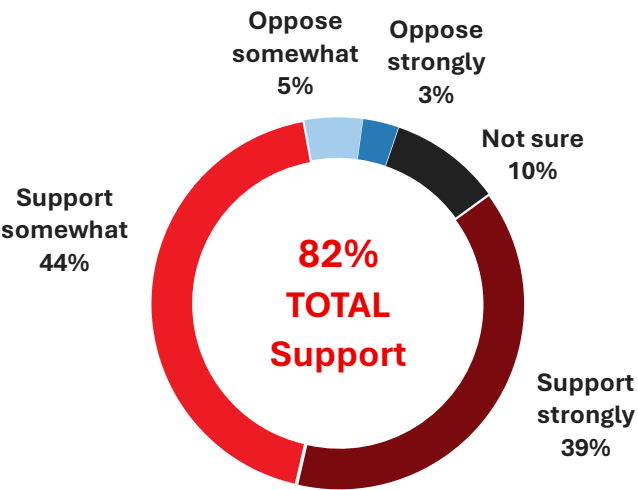
- In contrast to opinions on funding, there is less agreement that governments would do a good job implementing a possible solution, with just two-thirds agreeing.
- In contrast, a larger proportion relative to government agree that not-for-profit, community-based organizations would do a good job, demonstrating greater support for these types of organizations taking that role.
- There is the least agreement among the three that private companies would do a good job at implementation.

Perceived to Do a Good Job to **Implementing** Solutions to Take Care of Population: Regional Differences
(Total Agree)

	Canada	BC	AB	MB/SK	ON	QU	Atl.
	(n=1,532)	(n=151)	(n=136)	(n=127)	(n=610)	(n=408)	(n=100)
Not-for-profit, community-based organizations	73%	61%	70%	73%	75% ↑ BC, Atl.	80% ↑ BC, AB, Atl.	63%
Government	66%	60%	67%	63%	66%	71% ↑ BC	60%
Private companies	50%	37% ↓ AB, MB/SK, ON, QC	53%	54%	49%	58% ↑ BC, ON, Atl.	44%

Opinion of Proposed Solution

“The proposed solution would create a nationally funded program across Canada for people with complex needs, bringing health care, housing, mental health care and other supports together so people can receive coordinated help instead of navigating separate services.”



REGION			Strongly support	TOTAL support
	BC	(n=151)	37%	79%
	AB	(n=136)	27%	68%
	MB/SK	(n=127)	41%	75%
	ON	(n=610)	44% ↑ AB, MB/SK	85% ↑ AB, MB/SK
	QU	(n=408)	36%	86% ↑ AB, MB/SK
	Atl.	(n=100)	39%	85% ↑ AB

- A very large majority – over eight-in-ten – support the proposed solution put forward in the survey and nearly four-in-ten strongly support it. The proportion who oppose the solution is smaller than the remaining proportion who are “not sure”.
- Strong support is seen in all regions, being just a bit weaker in AB and MB/SK than among residents in provinces to their east.

Base: All respondents (n=1,532)
Following is a possible solution that has been proposed for caring for this population. Please read it carefully before you answer the question.
The proposed solution would create a nationally funded program across Canada for people with complex needs, bringing health care, housing, mental health care and other supports together so people can receive coordinated help instead of navigating separate services.
To what extent do you support or oppose this approach being implemented to care for this population?

Contact Us

For more information on this study, please contact our experts:



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