



THE DOMINION  
INSTITUTE



## **Canadians and Americans Believe Their Own Country Is More Just**

### **Canadians and Americans Have Faith in Own Health Care System, However, One-in-Five Canadians Believes They Would Receive Better Care in the United States**

**Toronto – November 14, 2005** – For years, Canadians have been told by critics of Canada’s healthcare system that service and care is superior in the United States, while many Americans look north in envy of our universal health care system. But where would you want to be treated if you had a serious medical problem? According to a new Dominion Institute survey conducted by Innovative Research Group it appears the answer depends on the country in which you live.

Both Canadians and Americans appear to trust in their own country’s health care system more than their neighbouring country’s system. A slightly higher proportion of Americans than Canadians believe that if they had a serious illness that they would receive better medical treatment in their own country. Three-quarters (76%) of Americans say they would receive better treatment in the United States than in Canada, compared to seven-in-ten (71%) Canadians who feel they would get better treatment in Canada than in the United States. Conversely, one-in-five (21%) Canadians believes that better treatment would be available to them in the United States, while almost as many Americans (17%) feel that better treatment is available in Canada.

Their overall opinion of Americans does not affect Canadians’ positions on this question, with approximately seven-in-ten of each segment opting for Canadian medical treatment over that offered in the United States (Pro-Bush 69%; Bush Skeptics 72%; Anti-American 71%). “Pro-Bush” Canadians who are favourable towards President Bush and Americans, “Bush Skeptics” are Canadians who are favourable towards Americans, but feel unfavourably towards Presidents Bush, and “Anti-Americans” are Canadians who feel unfavourably towards Americans and President Bush.

Interestingly, in Canada the biggest difference as to the belief they would receive better medical care in the United States is to be found in Western Canada. Three-in-ten (29%) residents of Manitoba/Saskatchewan, the birthplace of universal medical coverage, believe better care would be available in the United States, compared to just 17% in Alberta, the leading proponent of private sector involvement in the health care sector.

Older Canadians (77%) and young adults (76%) are the most likely to believe that better treatment would be available in Canada.

In the United States, the view that better medical treatment is available in Canada than in their own country is highest amongst residents of the mid-west (24%), those not employed (24%) and men (21%); Americans most likely to believe better treatment is available to them at home tend to be seniors (87%), and those with annual household incomes of \$50,000 to just under \$75,000 (84%).

## **Canadians Believe Charter of Rights Allows More Individual Freedom than American Bill of Rights**

Since its adoption in 1982, Canadians have become very attached to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In fact, three-quarters (73%) of Canadians feel that Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms allows for more individual freedom than Americans receive under their Constitution's Bill of Rights (13%).

Canadians aged 18 to 24 (86%), are the most likely to believe that Canadians' receive more individual freedoms under the Charter of Rights, than Americans do under their Bill of Rights. Further, this position is more likely held by women (77%) than by men (68%).

Looking at Canadians' overall view of Americans, "Anti-American" Canadians (79%) are more likely than the other two segments to say Canadians have more individual freedoms under the Charter than Americans receive through their Bill of Rights (11%).

Regionally, residents of Atlantic Canada (82%) and Quebec (80%) are more likely than those in other regions, specifically Ontario (68%) and Alberta (66%) to say that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides more protection for individual rights than does the American Bill of Rights. Interestingly, one-fifth (21%) of Albertans believe that the American Constitution's first 10 amendments, otherwise known as the Bill of Rights, provides greater individual freedom than the Canada Charter.

### About This Survey

**Innovative Research Group, Inc.** ([www.innovativeresearch.ca](http://www.innovativeresearch.ca)), a Toronto-based research firm, was commissioned to survey 1,016 randomly selected Canadians. The survey was conducted between Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.1\%$ , 19 times out of 20. Innovative was also commissioned to survey 1,000 randomly selected Americans. The survey was conducted between Friday October 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> and has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.1\%$ , 19 times out of 20.

**The Dominion Institute** ([www.dominion.ca](http://www.dominion.ca)) was established in 1997 by a group of young professional concerned about the erosion of a common memory in Canada. In the space of eight short years, the Institute has had a far-reaching impact on Canadians' knowledge and perceptions of their history and shared citizenship, through groundbreaking public opinion research, high-profile Internet, education and television programming, book publications, and meaningful curriculum reform. The Institute is a non-partisan organization and a federally registered charity (#873968176 RR0001).

**The Canadian Defence & Foreign Affairs Institute** ([www.cdfai.org](http://www.cdfai.org)) is a charitable, independent, non-partisan, research institute with an emphasis on Canadian Foreign Policy;

Defence Policy; and National Security. We provide Canadians with factual and comprehensive policy analysis to promote their understanding of Canada's foreign policy and the state of our military preparedness and national security by developing and sponsoring authoritative research and education programs.

### Attribution

In the first instance of mentioning the poll results the survey should be identified as a "Dominion Institute / CDFAI survey conducted by Innovative Research Group".

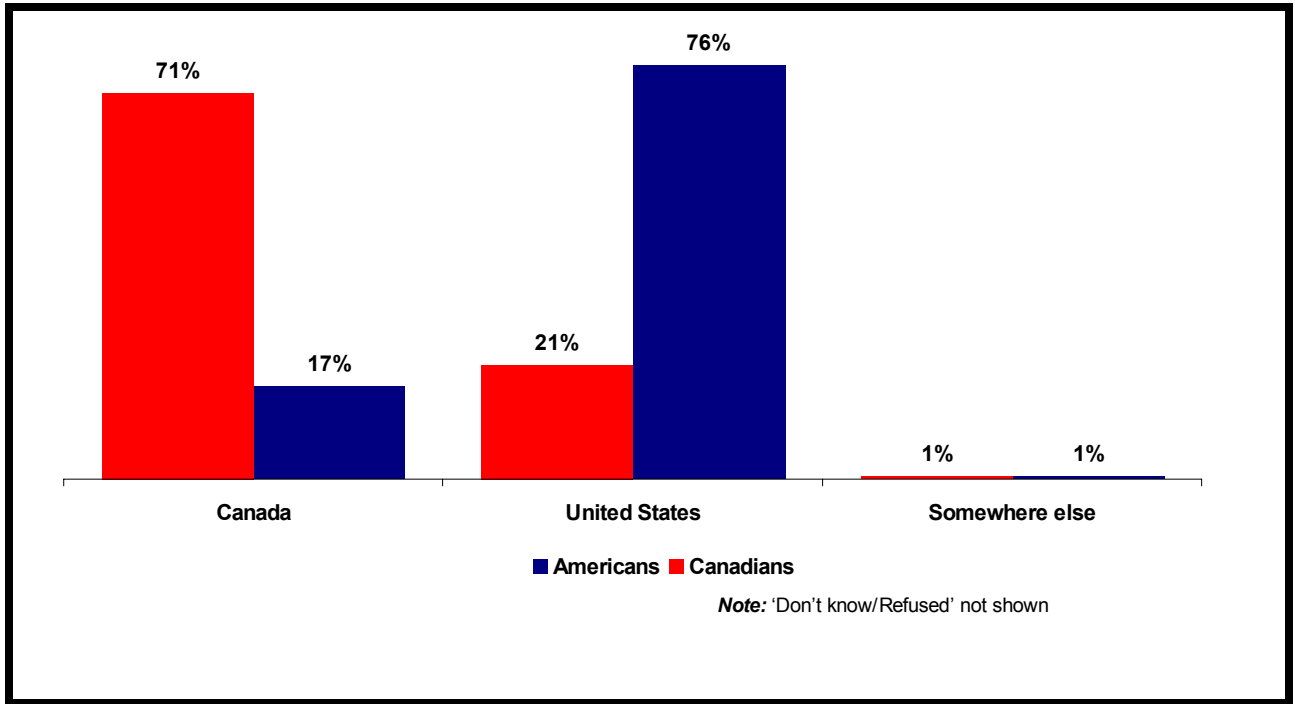
All subsequent mentions can use the convention "Dominion Institute / CDFAI poll conducted by Innovative".

### Spokespersons

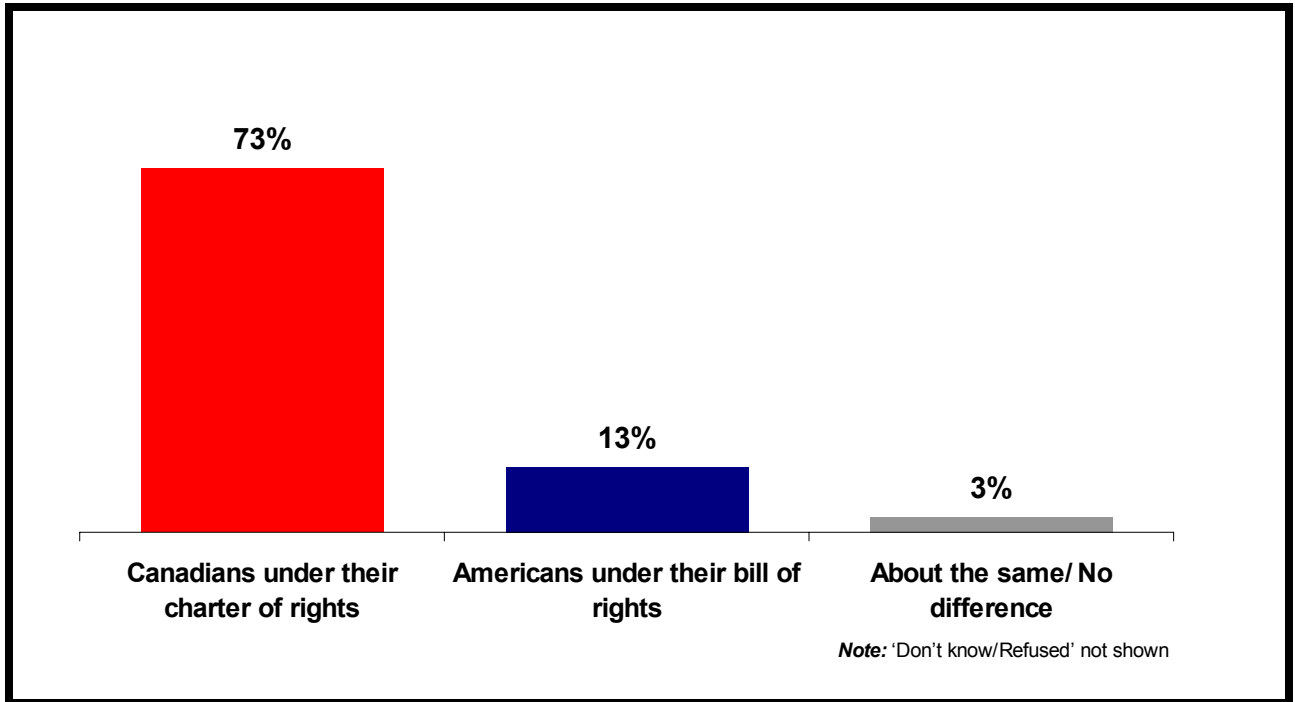
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If you had a serious illness do you think you would receive better medical treatment in the United States or Canada?



Who has more individual freedom under their country's respective law's [ROTATE] Americans under their bill of rights or Canadians under their charter of rights? (Among Canadians)



## Full Question Text

[ASKED IN US AND CANADA]

5. If you had a serious illness do you think you would receive better medical treatment in the United States or Canada?

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Canada         | 1               |
| United States  | 2               |
| Somewhere else | 3 (VOLUNTEERED) |
| Don't know     | 8 [VOLUNTEERED] |
| Refused        | 9 [VOLUNTEERED] |

6 Who has more individual freedom under their country's respective law's [ROTATE] Americans under their bill of rights or Canadians under their charter of rights?

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Americans under their bill of rights    | 1               |
| Canadians under their charter of rights | 2               |
| About the same/no difference            | 3 [VOLUNTEERED] |
| Don't know                              | 8 [VOLUNTEERED] |
| Refused                                 | 9 [VOLUNTEERED] |