



Canadian Opinion Poll

**Perceptions and opinions of Canadians
regarding homosexuality**

April 2008

12717-011

Montréal

Québec

Edmonton

Toronto

Calgary

Philadelphie

New York

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Context and Methodology

- ▶ Léger Marketing was commissioned by *Fondation Émergence* to survey Canadian perception and opinion regarding homosexuality.
- ▶ This study was conducted by Leger Marketing through telephone interviews among a representative sample of 1,501 English- or French-speaking Canadians, 18 years of age or older. The interviews were conducted from our Montreal and Winnipeg call centres from April 2 to April 9, 2008. Up to ten call-backs were made in the case of non-response.
- ▶ Using census data from Statistics Canada, the results were weighted according to gender, age, region and mother tongue to ensure a sample representative of the entire Canadian adult population.
- ▶ In the end, the maximum margin of error obtained for a sample of 1,501 respondents is $\pm 2.6\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Note to readers

- ▶ Since the data presented in the graphs and tables has been rounded out, column totals may not equal 100%.
- ▶ **Bold and bleu** data in the tables indicate a significantly higher proportion than other respondents.

1. Canadians and Homosexuality

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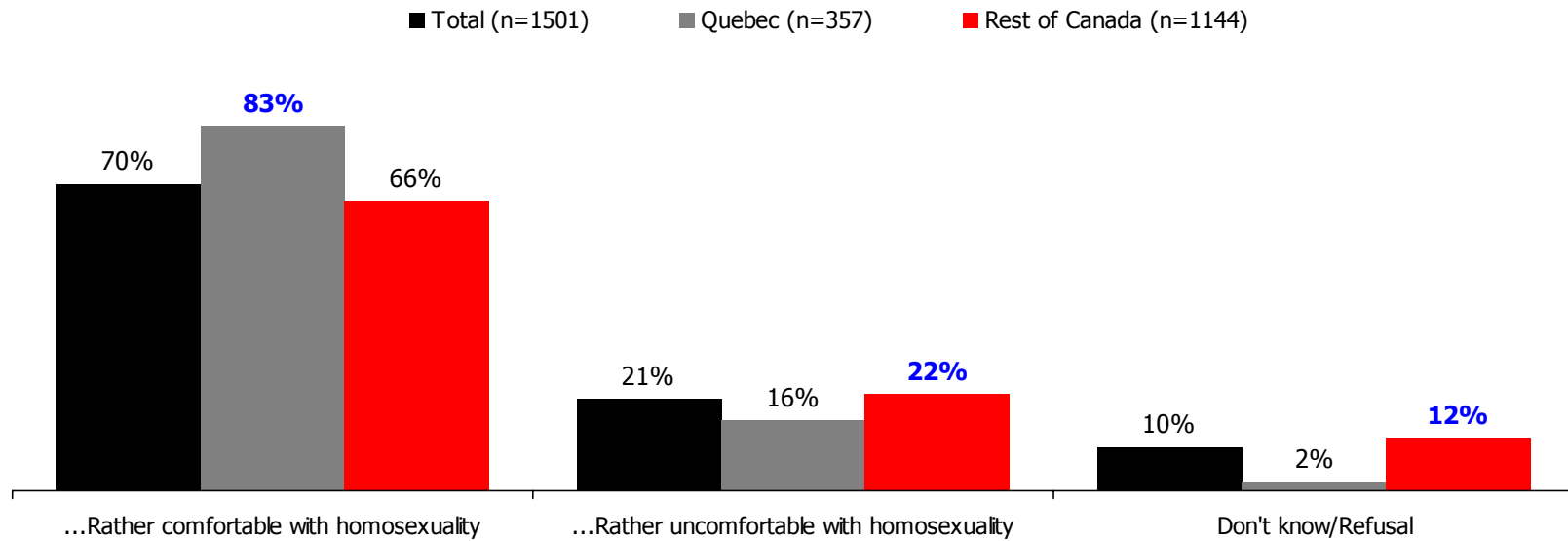
Philadelphie

New York

1.1 Attitudes towards Homosexuality

- ▶ In general, seven out of ten Canadians (70%) **feel comfortable with homosexuality** while 21% are uncomfortable.
- ⇒ Overall, it is mainly women, Francophones and residents of Québec who feel **comfortable** with homosexuality.

QF5. Personally, would you say you are... ?



Base: All respondents	Total (n=1501)	Province					
		Maritimes (n=101)	Quebec (n=400)	Ontario (n=600)	Prairies (n=125)	Alberta (n=125)	B-C (n=150)
...Rather comfortable with homosexuality	70%	72%	83%	65%	50%	60%	77%
...Rather uncomfortable with homosexuality	21%	23%	16%	22%	32%	24%	17%
Don't know	7%	3%	2%	9%	15%	13%	3%
Refusal	3%	2%	0%	4%	3%	4%	2%

1.1 Attitudes towards Homosexuality (continued)

▶ The following table presents the characteristics of respondents who are...

... comfortable with homosexuality (70%)

- ▶ Women (76%)
- ▶ Respondents between 25 and 34 years of age (78%)
- ▶ Francophones (86%)
- ▶ Residents of Québec (83%) and British Columbia (77%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is between \$60K and \$79K (81%)
- ▶ Respondents who work in offices, sales or services (77%)

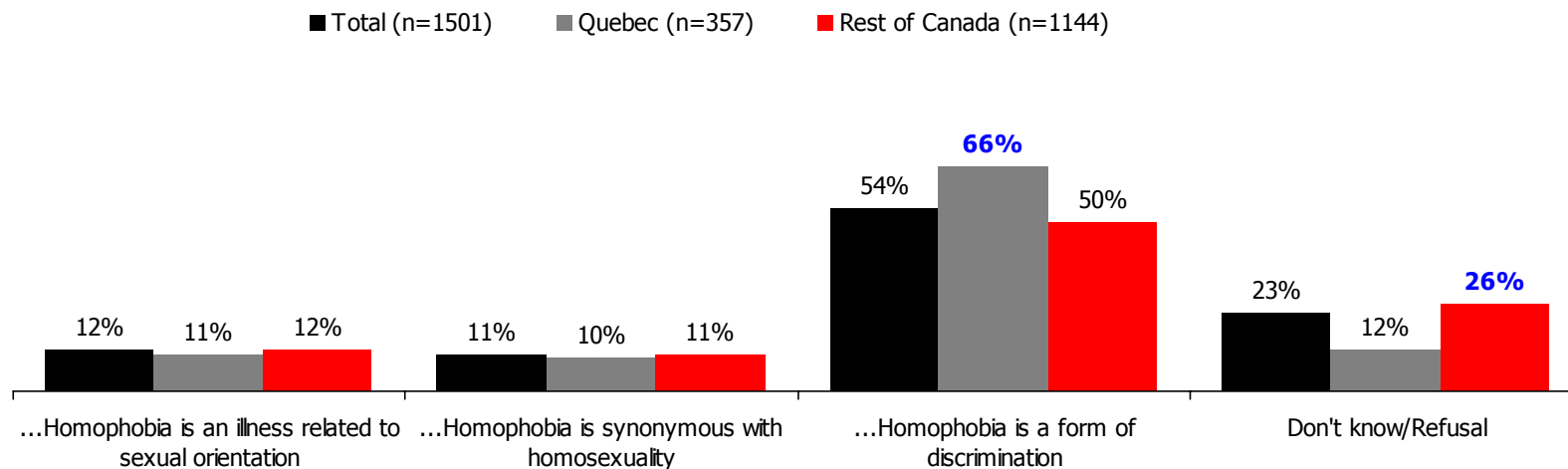
... uncomfortable with homosexuality (21%)

- ▶ Men (25%)
- ▶ Respondents 65 years of age or older (26%)
- ▶ Allophones (32%)
- ▶ Residents of the Prairies (32%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is between \$20K and \$39K (28%)
- ▶ Manual workers (33%)
- ▶ Respondents with a primary or high school education (25%)

1.2 Perceptions on Homophobia

- ▶ More than one out of two Canadians (54%) believe that **homophobia is a form of discrimination**.
- ⇒ This is especially the case for professionals, Francophones, residents of Québec, and respondents who are wealthier and more educated.
- ▶ It should be noted that one out of five respondents (20%) did not know the meaning of homophobia.

QF1. Among the following statements, which one corresponds best to your opinion?



Base: All respondents	Total (n=1501)	Province					
		Maritimes (n=101)	Quebec (n=400)	Ontario (n=600)	Prairies (n=125)	Alberta (n=125)	B-C (n=150)
...Homophobia is an illness related to sexual orientation	12%	16%	11%	14%	5%	3%	15%
...Homophobia is synonymous with homosexuality	11%	9%	10%	14%	9%	8%	7%
...Homophobia is a form of discrimination	54%	58%	66%	46%	41%	62%	56%
Don't know	20%	15%	12%	23%	39%	20%	18%
Refusal	3%	3%	0%	3%	6%	7%	3%

1.2 Perceptions of Homophobia (continued)

▶ The following table presents the characteristics of respondents who think that homophobia is...

... an illness related to sexual orientation (21%)

- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is between \$20K and \$39K (19%)
- ▶ Manual workers (17%)
- ▶ Respondents who are not comfortable with homosexuality (17%)

... synonymous with homosexuality (11%)

- ▶ Men (13%)
- ▶ Residents of Ontario (14%)
- ▶ Manual workers (16%)
- ▶ Respondents with a primary or high school education (15%)

... a form of discrimination (54%)

- ▶ Respondents between 25 and 34 years of age (64%)
- ▶ Francophones (64%)
- ▶ Residents of Québec (66%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is between \$60K and \$79K (63%) and \$80K or more (65%)
- ▶ Professionals (65%)
- ▶ Respondents with a university education (66%)
- ▶ Respondents who are comfortable with homosexuality (62%)

2. Prejudice against Homosexuality

Montréal

Québec

Edmonton

Toronto

Calgary

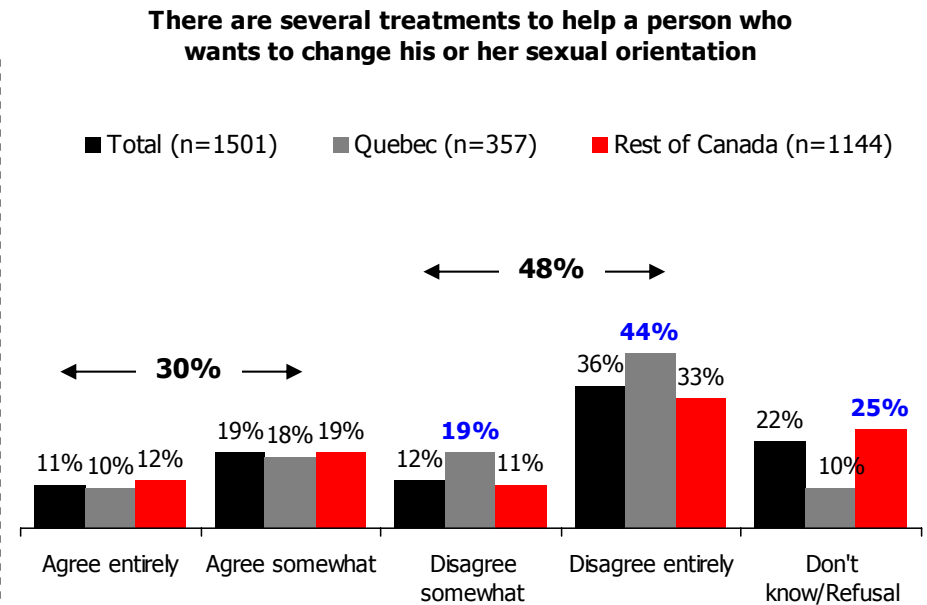
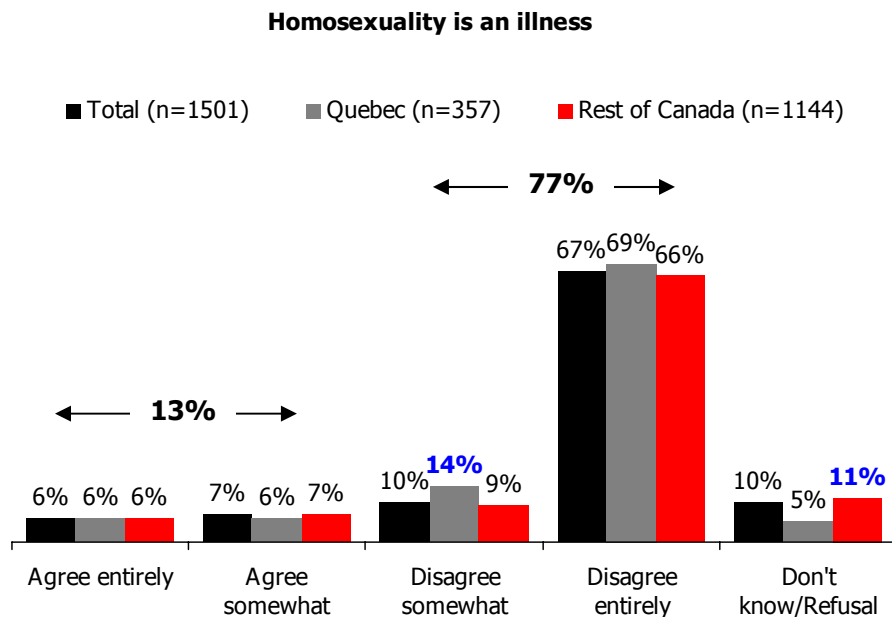
Philadelphie

New York

2.1 Homosexuality: An Illness?

- ▶ More than three out of four Canadians (77%) do not perceive **homosexuality as an illness**. In fact, 67% disagree entirely with this affirmation.
- ⇒ This tendency can be observed more among women, Francophones, residents of Québec and respondents who are wealthier and more educated.
- ▶ However, three out of ten Canadians (30%) believe **that there are treatments to help people who want to change their sexual orientation**.
- ⇒ This is especially true among less educated respondents.

QF4. Personally, do you AGREE ENTIRELY, AGREE SOMEWHAT, DISAGREE SOMEWHAT or DISAGREE ENTIRELY with the following affirmation... ?



2.1 Homosexuality: An Illness? (continued)

QF4. Personally, do you **AGREE ENTIRELY**, **AGREE SOMEWHAT**, **DISAGREE SOMEWHAT** or **DISAGREE ENTIRELY** with the following affirmation... ?

Homosexuality is an illness?

Base: All respondents	Total (n=1501)	Province					
		Maritimes (n=101)	Quebec (n=400)	Ontario (n=600)	Prairies (n=125)	Alberta (n=125)	B-C (n=150)
TOTAL AGREE	13%	16%	12%	14%	16%	10%	12%
Agree entirely	6%	11%	6%	7%	8%	3%	4%
Agree somewhat	7%	5%	6%	7%	9%	7%	8%
TOTAL DISAGREE	77%	78%	83%	74%	66%	75%	81%
Disagree somewhat	10%	7%	14%	9%	6%	14%	8%
Disagree entirely	67%	71%	69%	65%	60%	61%	74%
Don't know	7%	6%	4%	8%	11%	6%	5%
Refusal	3%	0%	1%	4%	7%	8%	2%

There are several treatments to help a person who wants to change his or her sexual orientation?

Base: All respondents	Total (n=1501)	Province					
		Maritimes (n=101)	Quebec (n=400)	Ontario (n=600)	Prairies (n=125)	Alberta (n=125)	B-C (n=150)
TOTAL AGREE	30%	35%	27%	33%	24%	32%	28%
Agree entirely	11%	9%	10%	13%	10%	8%	15%
Agree somewhat	19%	26%	18%	20%	14%	24%	13%
TOTAL DISAGREE	48%	50%	63%	41%	44%	43%	50%
Disagree somewhat	12%	12%	19%	9%	14%	10%	13%
Disagree entirely	36%	39%	44%	32%	29%	32%	38%
Don't know	17%	11%	9%	20%	24%	19%	18%
Refusal	5%	4%	1%	6%	7%	7%	4%

2.1 Homosexuality: An Illness? (cont'd)

▶ The following table presents the characteristics of respondents who think that ...

... homosexuality is an illness (13%)

- ▶ Men (17%)
- ▶ Respondents 65 years of age or older (24%)
- ▶ Allophones (24%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is between \$20K and \$39K (18%)
- ▶ Manual workers (20%)
- ▶ Retirees (22%)
- ▶ Respondents with a primary or high school education (20%)
- ▶ Respondents who are uncomfortable with homosexuality (31%)

... homosexuality is not an illness (77%)

- ▶ Women (81%)
- ▶ Respondents between 18 and 24 years of age (87%) and 45 and 54 years of age (82%)
- ▶ Francophones (87%)
- ▶ Residents of Québec (83%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income exceeds \$80K (85%)
- ▶ Respondents who work in offices, sales or services (85%), professionals (81%), homemakers (86%)
- ▶ Respondents with a college (83%) or university (81%) education
- ▶ Respondents who are comfortable with homosexuality (87%)

2.1 Homosexuality: An Illness? (cont'd)

▶ The following table presents the characteristics of respondents who think that ...

... there are several treatments to help a person who wants to change his or her sexual orientation (30%)

- ▶ Respondents between 55 and 64 years of age (37%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is between \$40K and \$59K (41%)
- ▶ Respondents with a primary or high school education (36%)
- ▶ Respondents who believe homosexuality is an illness (52%) and those who are uncomfortable with homosexuality (42%)

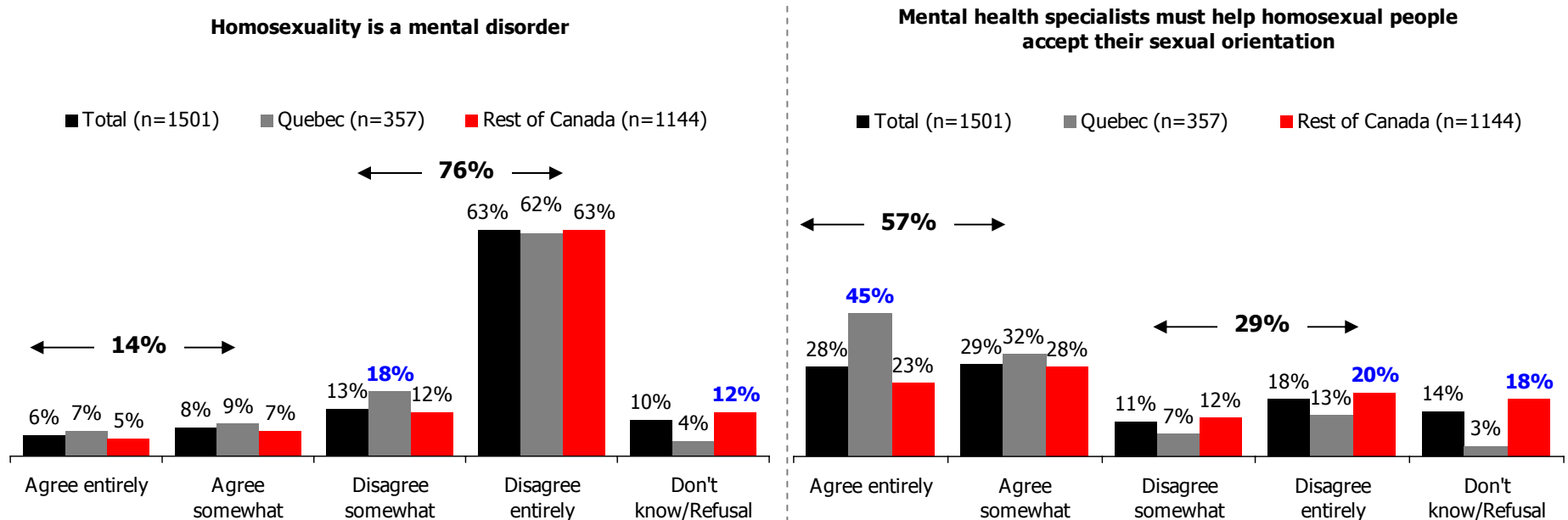
... that there are no treatments to help a person who wants to change his or her sexual orientation (48%)

- ▶ Respondents between 25 and 34 (57%) and between 35 and 44 (54%)
- ▶ Francophones (61%)
- ▶ Residents of Québec (63%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is \$80K or more (54%)
- ▶ Respondents with a college education (53%)
- ▶ Respondents who do not believe that homosexuality is an illness (56%) and those who are comfortable with homosexuality (56%)

2.2 Homosexuality: A Mental Disorder?

- ▶ Three out of four Canadians (76%) believe that **homosexuality is not a mental disorder**.
- ⇒ This tendency can be observed more among women, Francophones, residents of Québec and British Columbia and respondents who are wealthier and more educated.
- ▶ However, three out of five Canadians (57%) think that **mental health specialists should help homosexual people accept their sexual orientation**.
- ⇒ Overall, women, Francophones and residents of Québec believe that specialists should help homosexual people.

QF4. Personally, do you AGREE ENTIRELY, AGREE SOMEWHAT, DISAGREE SOMEWHAT or DISAGREE ENTIRELY with the following affirmation... ?



2.2 Homosexuality: A Mental Disorder? (continued)

QF4. Personally, do you **AGREE ENTIRELY**, **AGREE SOMEWHAT**, **DISAGREE SOMEWHAT** or **DISAGREE ENTIRELY** with the following affirmation... ?

Homosexuality is a mental disorder?

Base: All respondents	Total (n=1501)	Province					
		Maritimes (n=101)	Quebec (n=400)	Ontario (n=600)	Prairies (n=125)	Alberta (n=125)	B-C (n=150)
TOTAL AGREE	14%	13%	16%	13%	17%	14%	10%
Agree entirely	6%	5%	7%	6%	7%	2%	5%
Agree somewhat	8%	8%	9%	7%	10%	11%	5%
TOTAL DISAGREE	76%	84%	80%	73%	66%	71%	82%
Disagree somewhat	13%	11%	18%	12%	8%	15%	11%
Disagree entirely	63%	73%	62%	61%	57%	56%	72%
Don't know	6%	3%	3%	9%	9%	7%	6%
Refusal	4%	0%	1%	5%	8%	8%	2%

Mental health specialists must help homosexual people accept their sexual orientation?

Base: All respondents	Total (n=1501)	Province					
		Maritimes (n=101)	Quebec (n=400)	Ontario (n=600)	Prairies (n=125)	Alberta (n=125)	B-C (n=150)
TOTAL AGREE	57%	61%	77%	49%	51%	47%	53%
Agree entirely	28%	28%	45%	23%	23%	16%	23%
Agree somewhat	29%	32%	32%	26%	28%	31%	30%
TOTAL DISAGREE	29%	27%	20%	33%	28%	33%	32%
Disagree somewhat	11%	10%	7%	14%	3%	13%	10%
Disagree entirely	18%	16%	13%	19%	25%	20%	22%
Don't know	10%	9%	2%	13%	11%	12%	12%
Refusal	4%	4%	1%	5%	10%	8%	3%

2.2 Homosexuality: A Mental Disorder? (cont'd)

▶ The following table presents the characteristics of respondents who think that ...

... homosexuality is a mental disorder (14%)

- ▶ Men (18%)
- ▶ Respondents 65 years of age or older (22%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is between \$20K and \$39K(18%)
- ▶ Manual workers (21%)
- ▶ Students (23%)
- ▶ Retirees (19%)
- ▶ Respondents with a primary or high school education (22%)
- ▶ Respondents who believe homosexuality is an illness (63%) and those who are uncomfortable with homosexuality (32%)

... homosexuality is not a mental disorder (76%)

- ▶ Women (82%)
- ▶ Respondents between 45 and 54 years of age (81%)
- ▶ Francophones (84%)
- ▶ Residents of Québec (80%) and BC (82%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is between \$60K and \$79K (83%) or \$80K and or more (82%)
- ▶ Respondents who work in offices, sales or services (83%) and professionals (83%)
- ▶ Respondents with a college (83%) and university (81%) education
- ▶ Respondents who do not believe that homosexuality is an illness (92%) and those who are comfortable with homosexuality (87%)

2.2 Homosexuality: A Mental Disorder? (cont'd)

▶ The following table presents the characteristics of respondents who think that ...

... mental health specialists must help homosexual people accept their sexual orientation (57%)

- ▶ Women (60%)
- ▶ Francophones (80%)
- ▶ Residents of Québec (77%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is between \$40K and \$59K (64%)
- ▶ Respondents with a primary or high school education (63%)
- ▶ Respondents who believe homosexuality is a mental disorder (67%) and those who are comfortable with homosexuality (63%)

... mental health specialists must not help homosexual people accept their sexual orientation (29%)

- ▶ Men (33%)
- ▶ Respondents between 25 and 34 years of age (38%)
- ▶ Anglophones (32%)
- ▶ Residents of Ontario (33%)
- ▶ Respondents with a college education (34%)
- ▶ Respondents who are uncomfortable with homosexuality (37%)

3. Homosexuality in a Medical Context

Montréal

Québec

Edmonton

Toronto

Calgary

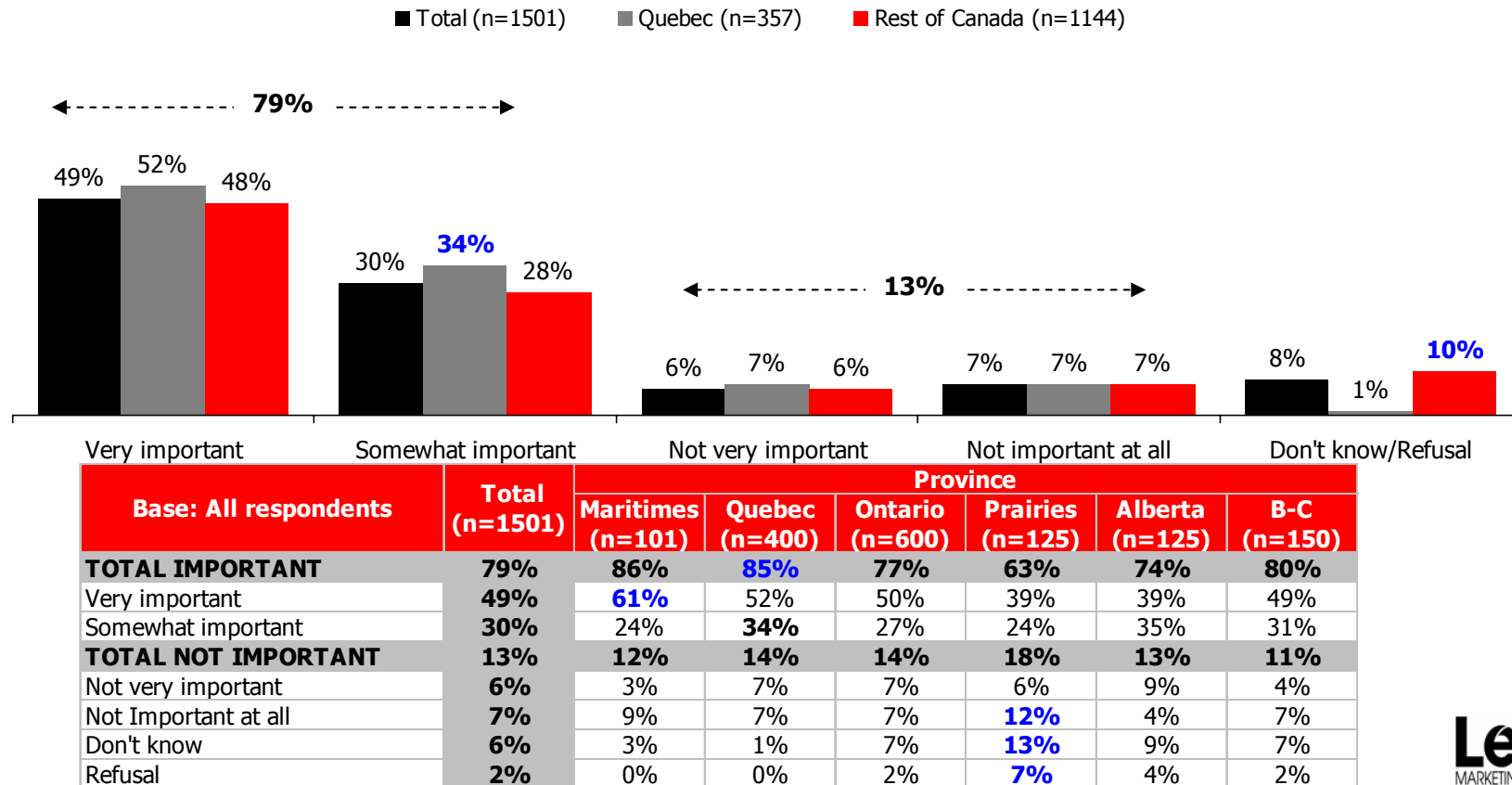
Philadelphie

New York

3.1 Perceived Importance of Training Health Care Providers regarding Homosexuality

- ▶ In total, four out of five Canadians (79%) think it is important for **health care providers to receive adequate training on issues related to homosexuality**, while 13% feel it is not very important for them to receive appropriate training.

QF2. Personally, would you say it is VERY IMPORTANT, SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT, NOT VERY IMPORTANT or NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL for health care providers to receive training for a better knowledge of the issues related to homosexuality?



3.1 Perceived Importance of Training Health Care Providers regarding Homosexuality (continued)

▶ The following table presents the characteristics of respondents who think that...

... it is important for health care providers to receive training (79%)

- ▶ Women (83%)
- ▶ Francophones (85%)
- ▶ Residents of Québec (85%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is between \$40K and \$59K (87%)
- ▶ Respondents who are comfortable with homosexuality (84%)

... that is not very important for health care providers to receive training (13%)

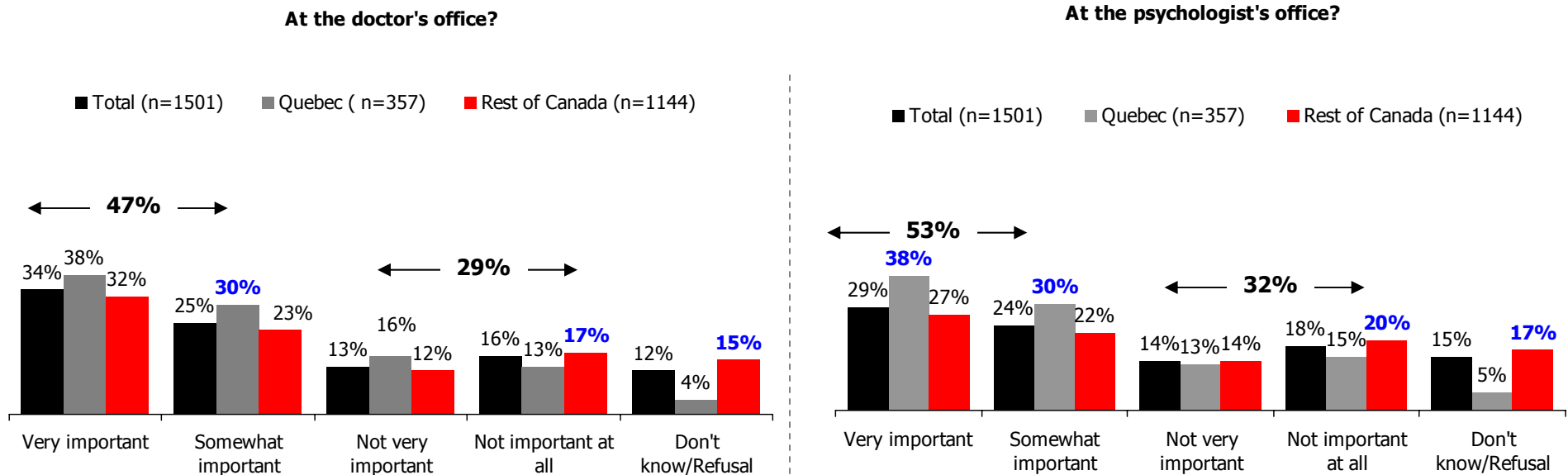
- ▶ Respondents who are uncomfortable with homosexuality (18%)

3.2 Perceived Importance of Revealing One's Homosexuality during a Consultation

- ▶ Overall, nearly one out of two Canadians (47%) believes that it is important to reveal your sexual orientation during a consultation **at the doctor's office** and 53% think it important to let the **psychologist** know about your sexual orientation.

⇒ This is especially true among women, Francophones and residents of Québec.

QF3. In your opinion, is it VERY IMPORTANT, SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT, NOT VERY IMPORTANT or NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL for a homosexual person to reveal his or her sexual orientation during a consultation... ?



3.2 Perceived Importance of Revealing One's Homosexuality during a Consultation (continued)

QF3. In your opinion, is it VERY IMPORTANT, SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT, NOT VERY IMPORTANT or NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL for a homosexual person to reveal his or her sexual orientation during a consultation... ?

At the doctor's office?

Base: All respondents	Total (n=1501)	Province					
		Maritimes (n=101)	Quebec (n=400)	Ontario (n=600)	Prairies (n=125)	Alberta (n=125)	B-C (n=150)
TOTAL IMPORTANT	58%	66%	68%	56%	51%	58%	47%
Very important	34%	37%	38%	34%	26%	37%	26%
Somewhat important	25%	29%	30%	23%	25%	21%	21%
TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT	29%	29%	29%	27%	34%	25%	38%
Not very important	13%	12%	16%	12%	15%	11%	15%
Not important at all	16%	17%	13%	16%	19%	13%	23%
Don't know	9%	5%	3%	12%	11%	13%	9%
Refusal	3%	1%	1%	4%	4%	4%	5%

At the psychologist's office?

Base: All respondents	Total (n=1501)	Province					
		Maritimes (n=101)	Quebec (n=400)	Ontario (n=600)	Prairies (n=125)	Alberta (n=125)	B-C (n=150)
TOTAL IMPORTANT	53%	62%	67%	48%	46%	44%	46%
Very important	29%	40%	38%	25%	32%	27%	22%
Somewhat important	24%	21%	30%	23%	14%	18%	25%
TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT	32%	30%	28%	33%	33%	37%	36%
Not very important	14%	13%	13%	14%	13%	20%	13%
Not important at all	18%	18%	15%	20%	19%	17%	23%
Don't know	11%	7%	4%	15%	17%	14%	11%
Refusal	4%	1%	1%	4%	5%	5%	7%

3.2 Perceived Importance of Revealing One's Homosexuality during a Consultation (cont')

▶ The following table presents the characteristics of respondents who think that...

... it's important to reveal your sexual orientation at the doctor's office (58%)

- ▶ Women (61%)
- ▶ Respondents between 45 and 54 (66%), 55 and 64 (64%) and 55 years of age or older (66%)
- ▶ Francophones (68%)
- ▶ Residents of Québec (68%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is between \$40K and \$59K (66%)
- ▶ Retirees (67%)
- ▶ Respondents who believe homosexuality is a mental disorder (69%)

... it's not important to reveal your sexual orientation at the doctor's office (29%)

- ▶ Respondents between 18 and 24 years of age (49%) 25 and 34 years of age (41%)
- ▶ Residents of BC (38%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is \$80K (35%)
- ▶ Manual workers (35%) and professionals (33%)
- ▶ Respondents who do not believe that homosexuality is an illness (32%) or a mental disorder (32%)

3.2 Perceived Importance of Revealing One's Homosexuality during a Consultation (cont')

▶ The following table presents the characteristics of respondents who think that...

... it's important to reveal your sexual orientation at the psychologist's office (53%)

- ▶ Women (57%)
- ▶ Respondents between 45 and 54 years of age (60%)
- ▶ Francophones (70%)
- ▶ Residents of Québec (67%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is between \$40K and \$59K (66%) and \$60K and \$79K (63%)
- ▶ Students (73%)
- ▶ Respondents who believe homosexuality is an illness (70%) or a mental disorder (68%)

... it's important to reveal your sexual orientation at the psychologist's office (32%)

- ▶ Men (35%)
- ▶ Respondents between 25 and 34 (42%) and 35 to 44 (38%) years of age
- ▶ Anglophones (36%)
- ▶ Respondents whose gross annual household income is \$80K (39%)
- ▶ Professionals (37%)
- ▶ Respondents who believe homosexuality is an illness (36%) or a mental disorder (36%) and those who are comfortable with homosexuality (35%)

Respondent Profile

Montréal

Québec

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New York

Respondent Profile

Base: All respondents	Total (n=1501)
Gender	
Men	49%
Women	51%
Age	
18-24 years old	12%
25-34 years old	16%
35-44 years old	19%
45-54 years old	20%
55-64 years old	15%
65 years old and older	16%
Mother Tongue	
French	22%
English	58%
Other	18%
Level of Education	
Primary and high school	37%
College	29%
University	32%

Base: All respondents	Total (n=1501)
Regions	
Maritimes	7%
Quebec	24%
Ontario	39%
Prairies	7%
Alberta	10%
British Columbia	13%
Occupation	
Service / Sales / Office	22%
Manual worker	14%
Professional	24%
Homemaker	6%
Student	6%
Retired	20%
Unemployed	4%
Annual Household Income	
Less than \$19,999	8%
\$20,000 to \$39,000	15%
\$40,000 to \$59,999	17%
\$60,000 to \$79,999	13%
\$80,000 or more	22%