

# THE GRANITE STATE POLL

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

### NH – MAKE CANADIAN PRESCRIPTIONS LEGAL

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**FOR RELEASE**  
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DURHAM, NH – New Hampshire adults strongly support the federal government legalizing the purchasing of prescription drugs from Canada.

These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Poll**, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. The Granite State Poll is sponsored by the University of New Hampshire. Five hundred forty-two (542) randomly selected adults were interviewed by telephone between April 19 and April 26, 2004. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-4.2 percent. (For more detailed results, visit the Survey Center web site at [www.unh.edu/survey-center/pd43004.pdf](http://www.unh.edu/survey-center/pd43004.pdf))

### **Legalize Prescription Purchasing from Canada**

For many years, a growing number of seniors in New England have taken the trip north to buy prescription drugs in Canada, where they can be purchased at significantly lower prices than in the United States. Governors in many states, including New Hampshire, have also looked at purchasing drugs in Canada as a way of reducing health care costs for state employees. It is not currently legal under federal law for either states or individuals to buy prescription drugs in Canada, although legislation has been introduced in Congress to permit individuals to buy prescription drugs north of the border.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has argued that the safety of prescription drugs from other countries cannot be assured. New Hampshire Governor Craig Benson has asked for a waiver from the FDA so that the state could buy drugs in Canada for Medicaid patients and state prisoners. In the latest Granite State Poll, New Hampshire adults were asked if they favored or opposed the federal government making it legal for people to buy prescription drugs from Canada - 81 percent support making this legal, 14 percent oppose, and 5 percent are unsure. Large majorities of people in all political and demographic groups support making the purchase of prescription drugs from Canada legal.

“Governor Benson is smart to push for a waiver on fiscal grounds as it would save the State of New Hampshire a lot of money if prescription costs could be reduced,” said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center. “It is also a smart move politically given public support for the idea.”

As of now, most people in New Hampshire have obeyed the law. Only 4 percent say they have ever purchased prescription drugs from Canada and only 10 percent of adults 65 and over have purchased prescription drugs in Canada.

## Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the most recent Granite State Poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center from April 19 to April 26, 2004. A random sample of 542 New Hampshire adults was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 4.2 percent. Results reported for other subgroups have potential for somewhat larger variation than those for the entire population.

The data have been weighted to adjust for numbers of adults and telephone lines within households, respondent sex, and region of the state. In addition to potential sampling error, all surveys have other potential sources of non-sampling error including question order effects, question wording effects, and non-response.

### Federal Government Legalizing Buying Prescription Drugs from Canada (NH Adults)

"Recently, there has been discussion about making it legal for people to buy prescription drugs from Canada. Some people, including Governor Benson, say that this would save seniors and the state money. Other people, including the US Food and Drug Administration, have argued that the safety of prescription drugs from other countries cannot be assured. What about you ... do you favor or oppose the federal government making it legal for people to buy prescription drugs from Canada?"

	<u>April 2004</u>
<b>Favor</b>	81%
<b>Neutral / DK</b>	5
<b>Oppose</b>	14
<b>(N)</b>	(541)

### Federal Government Legalizing Buying Prescription Drugs from Canada (NH Adults)

"Have you or has anyone in your household ever bought prescription drugs from Canada to get a better price, or not?"

	<u>April 2004</u>
<b>Yes</b>	4%
<b>No</b>	96
<b>(N)</b>	(541)

**Favor/Oppose Federal Government Legalize Buying Prescription Drugs from Canada**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Favor</u> 81%</b>	<b><u>Oppose</u> 14%</b>	<b><u>Don't Know/ Not Sure</u> 5%</b>	<b><u>(N)</u> 541</b>
Registered Democrat	85	12	2	98
Undeclared	81	14	5	201
Registered Republican	82	13	4	136
Not registered	73	17	10	103
Democrat	83	14	3	221
Independent	79	11	10	94
Republican	79	16	5	217
Liberal	82	16	3	106
Moderate	82	14	4	210
Conservative	79	16	5	182
Union household	84	11	5	72
Non-union	80	15	5	466
5 Years or less in NH	79	17	4	73
6 to 10 years	89	8	3	61
11 to 20 years	71	21	8	114
More than 20 years	83	12	5	289
18 to 34	71	24	5	128
35 to 49	86	9	5	205
50 to 64	82	13	5	127
65 and over	80	15	5	69
Male	82	13	5	263
Female	80	15	5	279
High school or less	77	17	6	169
Some college	81	11	8	119
College graduate	82	15	2	170
Post-graduate	85	12	3	80
Less than \$30K	75	18	8	76
\$30K to \$60K	84	11	5	147
\$60K to \$75K	84	15	1	47
\$75K to \$100K	71	21	8	63
More than \$100K	83	12	4	82
Married	83	12	5	359
Divorced/separated	77	14	9	79
Never married	76	22	2	99
Protestant	83	12	4	180
Catholic	82	13	5	171
Other	77	17	6	177
Attend 1 or more/week	80	14	6	130
1-2 times a month	84	13	2	69
Less often	80	14	6	158
Never	81	14	5	174
Northern NH	80	17	3	71
Western NH	86	8	5	51
Central/Lakes	78	15	7	85
Hillsborough County	78	14	8	164
Seacoast	84	14	3	170
1st Cong. District	80	15	5	269
2nd Cong. District	81	13	6	273
1st E.C. District	79	17	4	103
2nd E.C. District	82	13	5	119
3rd E.C. District	84	13	3	102
4th E.C. District	80	13	7	102
5th E.C. District	81	12	8	111

**You or Household Member Ever Bought Prescription Drugs from Canada**

	<u>Yes</u> 4%	<u>No</u> 96%	<u>(N)</u> 541
<b>STATEWIDE</b>			
Registered Democrat	6	94	97
Undeclared	4	96	201
Registered Republican	3	97	137
Not registered	5	95	103
Democrat	6	94	220
Independent	4	96	94
Republican	3	97	218
Liberal	4	96	105
Moderate	3	97	210
Conservative	5	95	182
Union household	5	95	72
Non-union	4	96	466
5 Years or less in NH	4	96	73
6 to 10 years	9	91	61
11 to 20 years	2	98	114
More than 20 years	4	96	289
18 to 34	2	98	128
35 to 49	3	97	204
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65 and over	10	90	70
Male	3	97	263
Female	6	94	279
High school or less	4	96	170
Some college	5	95	119
College graduate	3	97	169
Post-graduate	5	95	80
Less than \$30K	4	96	75
\$30K to \$60K	7	93	148
\$60K to \$75K	3	97	47
\$75K to \$100K	2	98	63
More than \$100K	3	97	82
Married	5	95	359
Divorced/separated	5	95	79
Never married	1	99	99
Protestant	8	92	181
Catholic	3	97	171
Other	2	98	176
Attend 1 or more/week	5	95	130
1-2 times a month	6	94	69
Less often	3	97	158
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Northern NH	6	94	71
Western NH	5	95	51
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2nd E.C. District	3	97	119
3rd E.C. District	6	94	102
4th E.C. District	4	96	102
5th E.C. District	4	96	111