

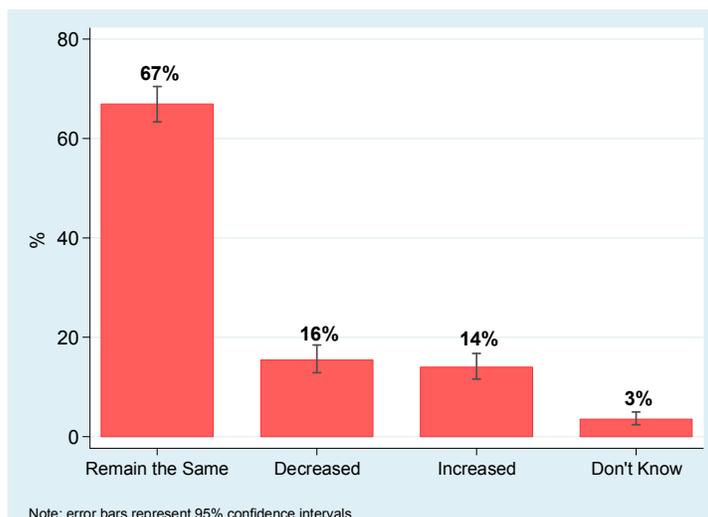
Ontarians' Opinions About Alcohol Policy

This eBulletin presents public opinion about several alcohol policies in Ontario. Specifically, the policies concern taxes on alcohol, hours of sale, corner store availability, and privatization of the LCBO. Data are from the 2010 *CAMH Monitor*, an Ontario-wide, anonymous telephone survey about substance use and mental health among adults aged 18 and older.

Taxes on Alcohol

As seen in Figure 1, two-thirds (67%; 95% CI: 63%-70%) of Ontario adults believe that taxes on alcoholic beverages should remain at the current level. Only 16% of Ontarians prefer a decrease in alcohol taxes, while 14% prefer an increase. There is a difference between the sexes (not shown), as men are more likely to prefer a tax decrease than women (18% vs. 13%, respectively). There is no discernible difference in opinions according to age group, or according to rural versus urban/suburban residence (not shown).

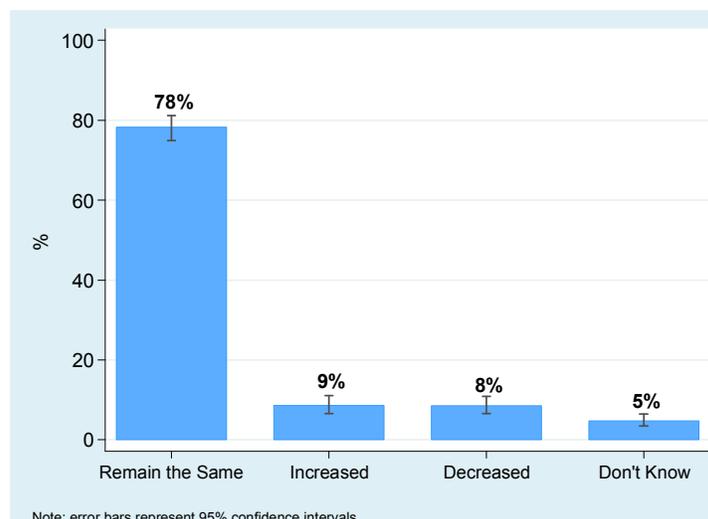
Figure 1.
Alcohol taxes: Percentage of Ontario adults ages 18+ responding whether taxes on alcohol should be increased, decreased, or remain the same, 2010 CAMH Monitor (N=1,006)



Hours of Sale

Over three-quarters (78%; 95% CI: 75%-81%) of Ontarians would prefer to see beer and liquor store hours to remain as they currently are (Figure 2). Only 9% prefer an increase in hours of sale, while 8% prefer a decrease. Men are more likely than women to prefer an increase in the hours of sale (11% vs. 6%, respectively). There is no discernible difference according to age group, or according to rural versus urban/suburban residence.

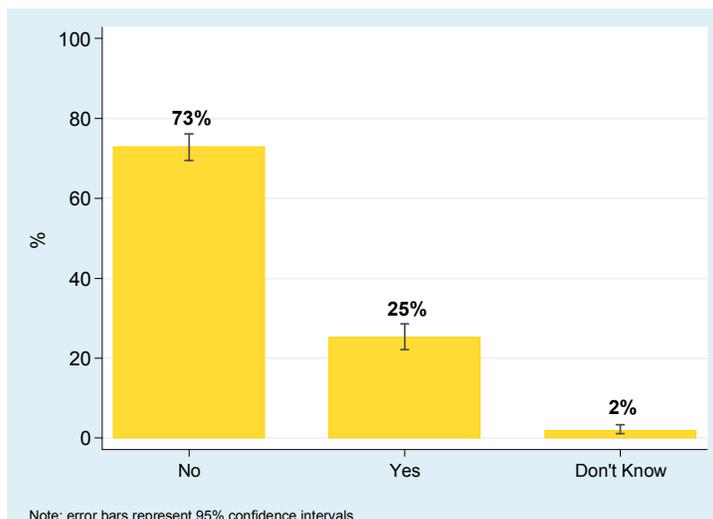
Figure 2.
Store hours: Percentage of Ontario adults ages 18+ responding whether beer and liquor store hours should be increased, decreased, or remain the same, 2010 CAMH Monitor (N=1,006)



Corner Store Availability

As seen in Figure 3, the majority (73%; 95% CI: 69%-76%) of Ontarians do not want alcohol to be available in corner stores. Women are more likely than men to be against corner store availability (80% vs. 64%, respectively). There is no discernible difference in opinions according to age group, or according to rural versus urban/suburban residence.

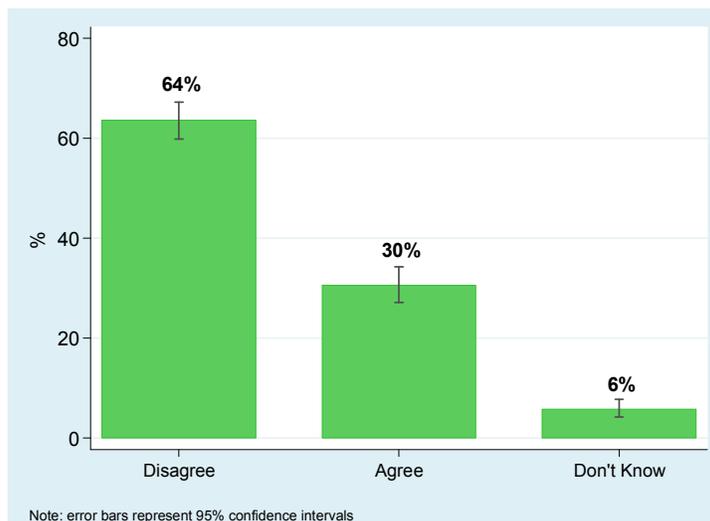
Figure 3.
Corner stores: Percentage of Ontario adults ages 18+ responding whether or not alcohol should be available in corner stores, 2010 CAMH Monitor (N=1,006)



Privatization of the LCBO

Almost two-thirds (64%; 95% CI: 60%-67%) of Ontarians disagree with the idea of selling all LCBO stores and allowing privately-run stores to sell alcohol (Figure 4). Women are more likely to be against privatization than men (67% vs 59%, respectively.) There is also a discernible age difference which shows that the youngest and oldest age groups are more likely to be against privatization compared with those aged 30-39 (about 65%-70% vs.56%, respectively). There is no difference in opinion according to rural versus urban/suburban residence.

Figure 4.
Privatization: Percentage of Ontario adults ages 18+ responding whether they agree or disagree that all LCBO stores should be privatized, 2010 CAMH Monitor (N=1,006)



Methods

The CAMH Monitor is an addiction and mental health surveillance survey of the Ontario adult population aged 18 and older. It is an anonymous, random-digit-dialling telephone survey, administered by the Institute for Social Research, York University. The CAMH Monitor is continuously conducted on monthly probability samples from January to December, and employs a stratified (region) two-stage (telephone number, respondent) probability sample design. The following 6 regional strata are used: Toronto, Central East, East, Central West, West, and North. The full sample size in 2010 was 3,030 (51% of eligible respondents). The alcohol policy opinion questions were asked of a random sample of 1,006 adults. All survey estimates were weighted, and variance and statistical tests were corrected for the complex sampling design. The sample is representative of over 9 million Ontarians aged 18 and older.

Measures & Terminology

- Opinions about **taxes on alcohol** were measured with the question: “Do you think taxes on alcoholic beverages should be increased, decreased, or remain the same?”
- Opinions about **hours of sale** were measured with the question: “Do you think beer and liquor store hours should be increased, decreased, or remain the same?”
- Opinions about **corner store availability** were measured with the question: “Do you think alcoholic beverages should be available in corner stores?”
- Opinions about **privatization of the LCBO** were measured with the question: “The Ontario government should close all LCBO stores, and allow privately-run stores to sell alcohol. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree?” Responses of somewhat agree and strongly agree were combined; responses of somewhat disagree and strongly disagree were combined.
- **Age group** refers to four groups: 18-29 year-olds (18% of the sample), 30-39 year-olds (19%), 40-49 year-olds (22%), and those aged 50 and older (41%). The average age was 46.3.
- **Rural vs. urban/suburban** was determined using the second character of the first 3 digits of the respondent’s postal code.
- **95% confidence interval (CI)** shows the probable accuracy of the estimate – that is, with repeated sampling, 95 of 100 sample CIs would contain the “true” population value. Design-based confidence intervals account for characteristics of the sample design (i.e., stratification, weighting).
- **Discernible difference** refers to a difference between estimates that is statistically different at the $p < .05$ level, or lower, after adjusting for the sampling design, and thus not likely due to chance alone.

Source

These findings are based on unpublished analyses of the 2010 CAMH Monitor data. For more information about the CAMH Monitor, please visit:
http://www.camh.net/research/camh_monitor.html

Suggested Citation

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. (2011, September). Ontarians’ opinions about alcohol policy. *CAMH Population Studies eBulletin*, 12(3). Retrieved from http://www.camh.net/research/areas_of_research/population_life_course_studies/eBulletins/research_population_ebulletins.html

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For information on the CAMH population health surveys, please visit our webpage:
http://www.camh.net/research/population_life_course.html

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