

## Ontarians Prefer Current Controls on Access to Alcohol

This *eBulletin* describes public opinion about four alcohol policies in Ontario. Specifically, the policies concern corner store availability and availability in general, local community control over alcohol, and privatization of the LCBO. Data are from the 2011 *CAMH Monitor*, an Ontario-wide, anonymous telephone survey about substance use and mental health among adults aged 18 and older.

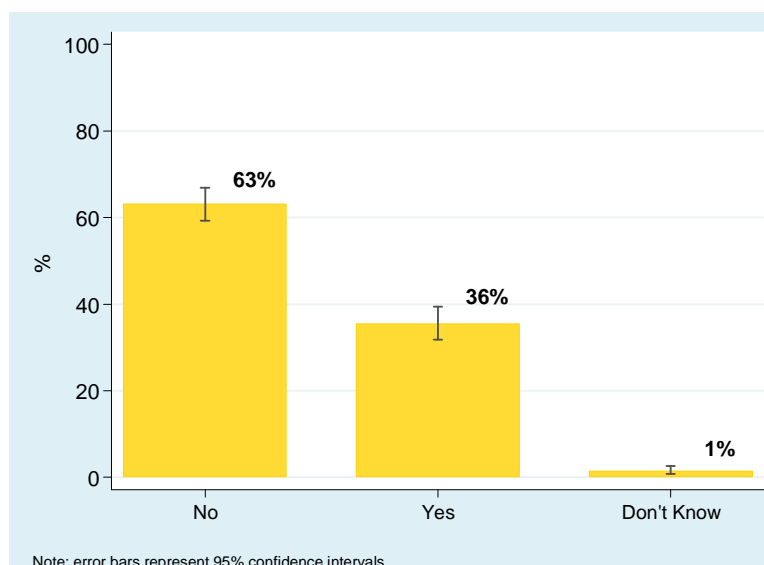
### Corner Store Availability

As seen in Figure 1, almost two-thirds (63%; 95% CI: 59%-67%) of Ontarians disapprove of alcohol being available in corner stores. Women are more likely than men to disapprove of corner store availability (74% vs. 52%, respectively). There are no statistically significant differences in opinions according to age group, or according to rural versus urban/suburban residence. This opinion question was also included in the 2010 cycle of the *CAMH Monitor*. In 2010, 73% (95% CI: 69%-76%) of Ontarians disapproved of alcohol being available in corner stores. The 2011 estimate of 63% is statistically significantly lower than the 2010 estimate. Thus, the percentage of Ontarians who are against corner store availability has recently declined.

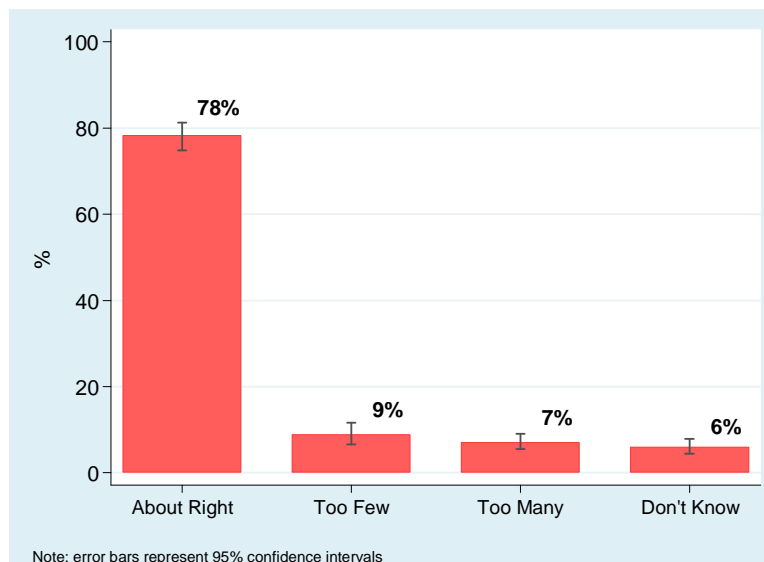
### Outlet Availability: Number of Places to Buy Alcohol

As seen in Figure 2, over three-quarters (78%; 95% CI: 75%-81%) of Ontarians believe that there is currently an adequate number of outlets to buy alcohol in their community (including bars). Opinions significantly differ according to gender, with women more likely than men to believe there are too many places to buy alcohol (11% vs. 3%, respectively). Opinions differ according to age group, with respondents aged 50 and older most likely to be unsure. There are no significant differences according to rural versus urban/suburban residence.

**Figure 1.**  
**Corner stores: Percentage of Ontario adults ages 18+ responding whether or not alcohol should be available in corner stores, 2011 CAMH Monitor (n=1,040)**



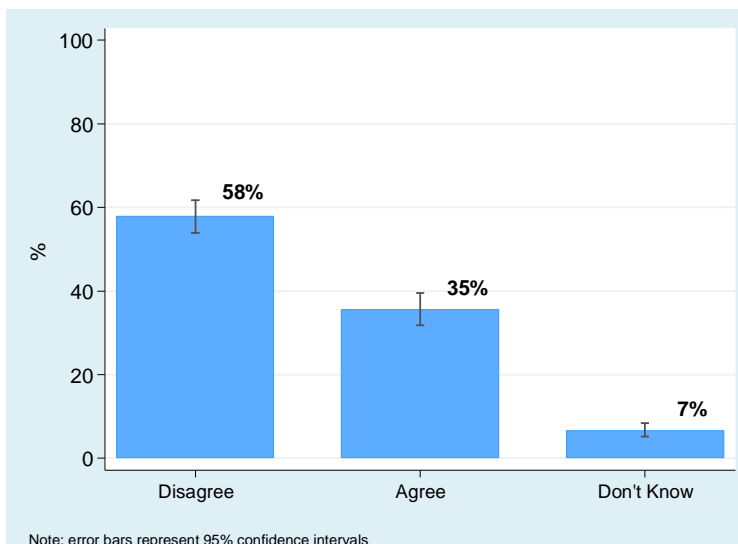
**Figure 2.**  
**Number of outlets: Percentage of Ontario adults ages 18+ responding whether there are too few, too many, or the right number of places to buy alcohol, 2011 CAMH Monitor (n=1,040)**



## Local Community Control Over Alcohol Sales and Consumption

The majority (58%; 95% CI: 54%-62%) of Ontarians disagree with the idea that local communities should put their own controls on the sale and consumption of alcohol (Figure 3). Women are significantly more likely than men to be unsure of this idea (10% vs. 4%, respectively). Among the age groups, the youngest respondents are most likely to agree that communities should be able to have their own controls, whereas those aged 40-49 are most likely to disagree with this idea. There are no significant differences in opinions according to rural versus urban/suburban residence.

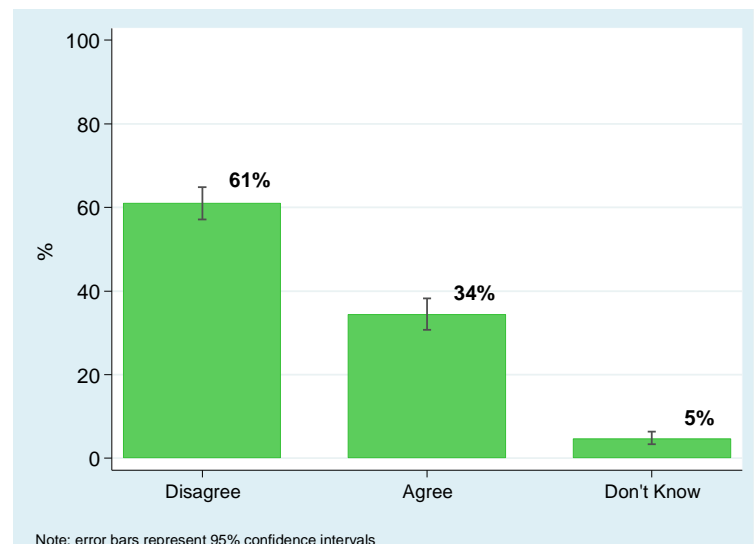
**Figure 3.**  
**Local community control: Percentage of Ontario adults ages 18+ responding whether they agree or disagree that communities should be able to put their own controls on the sale and consumption of alcohol, 2011 CAMH Monitor (n=1,040)**



## Privatization of the LCBO

Almost two-thirds (61%; 95% CI: 57%-65%) of Ontarians disagree with the proposal of selling all LCBO stores and allowing privately run stores to sell alcohol (Figure 4). Women are more likely than men to be against privatization (67% vs. 55%, respectively.) There are no significant differences in opinions about privatization according to age group, and there are no differences according to rural versus urban/suburban residence. In 2010, 64% (95% CI: 60%-67%) of Ontarians disagreed with the privatization of the LCBO. The 2011 estimate of 61% is not statistically different from the 2010 estimate.

**Figure 4.**  
**Privatization: Percentage of Ontario adults ages 18+ responding whether they agree or disagree that all LCBO stores should be privatized, 2011 CAMH Monitor (n=1,040)**



## 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, list-assisted random-digit-dialling telephone survey (landline and cell phone), administered by the Institute for Social Research, York University. The *CAMH Monitor* is continuously conducted on quarterly probability samples from January to December, and employs a stratified (region) two-stage (telephone number, respondent) probability sample design. The following six regional strata are used: Toronto, Central East, East, Central West, West, and North. The full sample size in 2011 was 3,039 (51% of eligible respondents). The alcohol policy opinion questions were asked of a random subsample of 1,040 adults. All survey estimates were weighted, and variance and statistical tests were corrected for the complex sampling design. The sample is representative of over nine million Ontarians aged 18 and older.

## Measures & Terminology

- Opinions about **corner store availability** were measured with the question: “*Do you think alcoholic beverages should be available in corner stores?*”
- Opinions about the **number of place to buy alcohol** were measured with the question: “*Including bars, do you think the number of places where you can buy alcohol in your community is too few, too many, or about right?*”
- Opinions about **local community control over alcohol sales and consumption** were measured with the question: “*Local communities should be able to put their own controls on the sale and consumption of alcohol, even if these controls are stricter than the provincial controls? 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.
- 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 (20% of the sample), 30-39 year-olds (20%), 40-49 year-olds (20%), and those aged 50 and older (40%). The average age was 45.6.
- **Rural vs. urban/suburban** was determined using the second character of the first three digits of the respondent’s postal code. Fifteen percent of the sample resided in a rural area.
- **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).
- **Statistically significant difference** refers to a difference between (or among) estimates that is statistically different at the  $p < .05$  level, or lower, after adjusting for the sampling design. A finding of statistical significance implies that any differences are not likely due to chance alone.

## Source

These findings are based on unpublished analyses of the 2011 *CAMH Monitor* data. For more information about the survey, please visit:  
[http://www.camh.ca/en/research/news\\_and\\_publications/pages/camh\\_monitor.aspx](http://www.camh.ca/en/research/news_and_publications/pages/camh_monitor.aspx)

## Suggested Citation

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