

# Public Opinion on Wireless Technology and Health

Citizens for Safe Technology

FINAL Submission • Project 2012-311



# Methodology

- Citizens for Safe Technology retained Nanos Research to conduct public opinion research on issues related to wireless technology and possible health effects.
- Between October 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Nanos conducted a random national telephone survey of 1,000 Canadians aged 18 and over. A random national telephone survey of 1,000 Canadians is accurate to within 3.1 percentage points, plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

# Executive Summary

- **Awareness of Possible Health Effects** – Nearly seven in ten Canadians (68.5%) said they were aware of possible health effects of electromagnetic frequencies from wireless technologies. About three in ten (29.7%) said they were unaware of possible health effects, while a handful (1.8%) were unsure.
- **Concern About Possible Health Effects** – Three in five Canadians (60.2%) said they were concerned (26.9%) or somewhat concerned (33.3%) about possible health effects of electromagnetic frequencies from wireless technologies. More than one in three (36.7%) said they were unconcerned (24.2%) or somewhat unconcerned (12.5%), while a further 3.0 per cent were unsure.
- **Sources of Concern** – Asked to rank their top two possible sources of electromagnetic frequencies in terms of possible health concerns, Canadians were most likely to pick cellular phones (46.5%) as their first ranked choice. A further one in five (20.1%) cited cellular phone towers as their first response.

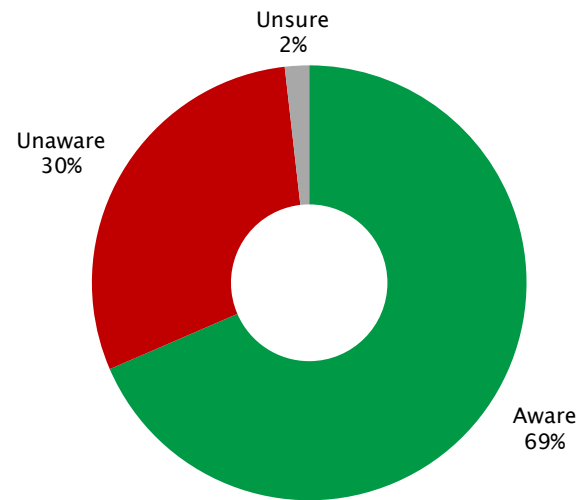
# Executive Summary (cont'd)

- **Health Risks and Groups of Concern** – Over one in three Canadians (35.6%) said that, in terms of possible health risks, they were most concerned about heavy users of wireless technology such as cell phones. Nearly one in four (23.0%) said they were most concerned about people who lived near cellular phone towers, while one in seven (14.3%) were most concerned about children in schools with wireless internet. Of note, nearly one in four Canadians (24.7%) said they were not concerned about any of these groups. A handful (2.3%) were unsure.
- **Personal Experience of Health Effects** – The overwhelming majority of Canadians (94.0%) said that no member of their household had ever experienced any health effects that they believed may have been the result of electromagnetic frequencies from wireless technologies. Less than one in twenty (4.3%) said that a member of their household had experienced such effects, while a further 1.7 per cent were unsure.

# Awareness of Possible Health Effects

Question – Are you aware or unaware of possible health effects of electromagnetic frequencies from wireless technologies?

(n=1,000)

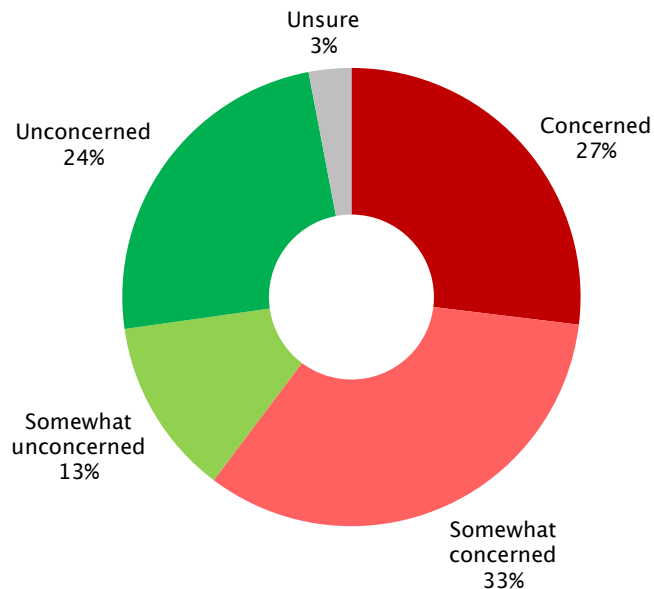


- Responses were generally consistent across regional, gender and age groups.

# Concern About Possible Health Effects

Question – Are you concerned, somewhat concerned, somewhat unconcerned or unconcerned about possible health effects of electromagnetic frequencies from wireless technologies?

(n=1,000)



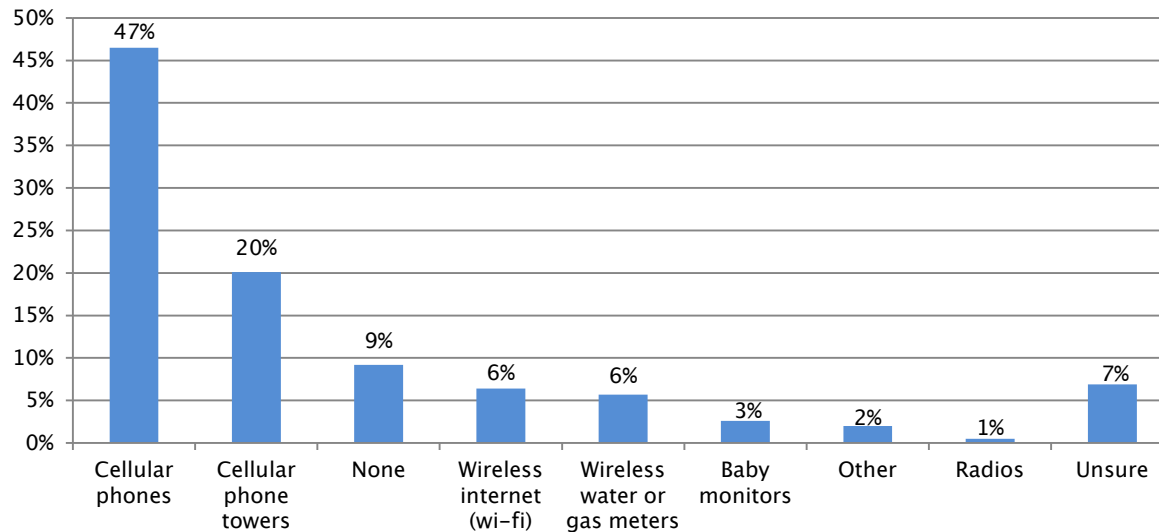
- Female respondents were more likely than male respondents to say they were concerned or somewhat concerned about possible health effects (68.5% vs. 51.5%).

# Sources of Concern

Question – Please rank the following possible sources of electromagnetic frequencies in terms of possible health concerns, where 1 is the source you are most concerned about and 2 is the source that you are the second most concerned about. [RANDOMIZE]

(n=1,000)

## FIRST RANKED RESPONSE

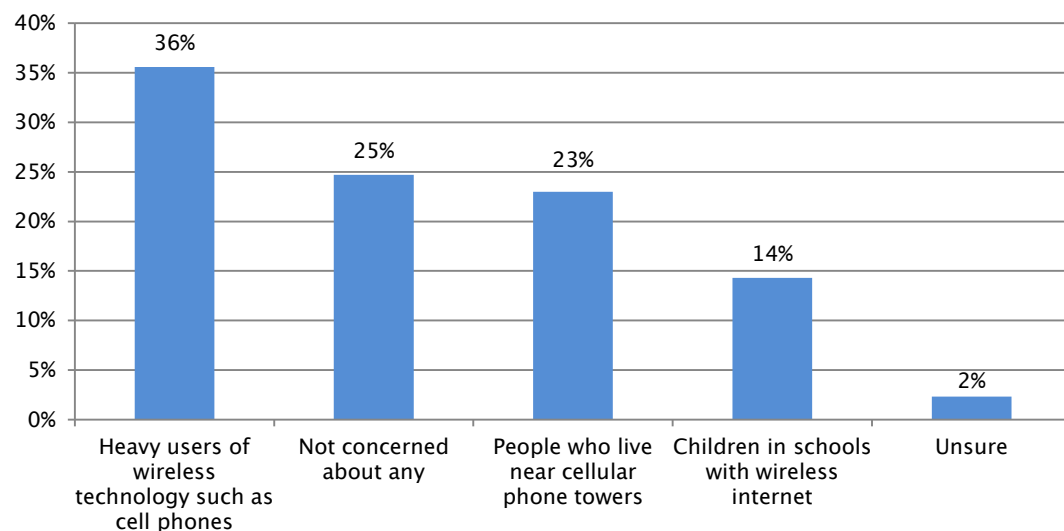


- There was overall consistency in numbers across regional, gender and age groups.

# Health Risks and Groups of Concern

Question – Which one of the following groups, if any, are you most concerned about in terms of possible health risks? [RANDOMIZE]

(n=1,000)



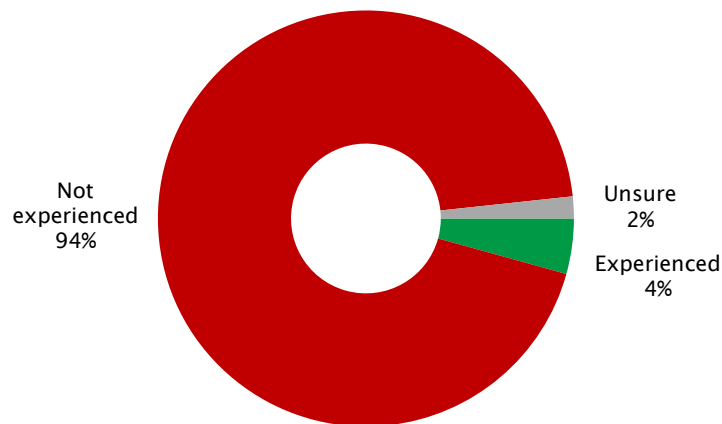
- While at the national level, there was a 13-point gap between the two groups respondents were most concerned about, in Quebec there was a statistical tie between respondents most concerned about people who live near cellular phone towers (31.7%) and those most concerned about heavy users of wireless technology such as cell phones (29.9%).



# Experience of Health Effects

Question – Has a member of your household ever experienced any health effects that you believe may be the result of electromagnetic frequencies from wireless technologies?

(n=1,000)



- Responses were broadly consistent across regional, gender and age groups.

# Contact Details

**Mitra Thompson**

T: (613) 234-4666 ext. 230

E: [mthompson@nanosresearch.com](mailto:mthompson@nanosresearch.com)

# Appendix – Statistical Tables



## 2012-311 – CITIZENS FOR SAFE TECHNOLOGY – STAT SHEET

		Question – Are you aware or unaware of possible health effects of electromagnetic frequencies from wireless technologies?			
		Total	Aware	Unaware	Unsure [Unprompted]
		Responses	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Region	Canada 2012-10	1000	68.5	29.7	1.8
	Atlantic	100	60.0	38.4	1.6
	Quebec	250	64.9	35.1	.0
	Ontario	300	75.1	23.2	1.7
	Prairies	200	63.0	32.4	4.6
	British Columbia	150	74.5	24.1	1.4
Gender	Male	485	70.6	28.0	1.4
	Female	515	66.6	31.3	2.2
Age	18 to 29	205	67.3	30.3	2.5
	30 to 39	169	76.0	24.0	.0
	40 to 49	208	68.4	29.9	1.7
	50 to 59	178	72.4	27.2	.4
	60 plus	239	61.5	34.9	3.6
Vote Profile	Liberal	247	67.8	31.1	1.1
	Conservative	274	73.8	24.4	1.7
	NDP	229	69.7	27.4	2.9
	Bloc	38	76.4	23.6	.0
	Green	23	76.7	23.3	.0
	Other	10	84.0	16.0	.0
	Undecided	178	56.2	41.6	2.2



## 2012-311 - CITIZENS FOR SAFE TECHNOLOGY - STAT SHEET

Question – Are you concerned, somewhat concerned, somewhat unconcerned or unconcerned about possible health effects of electromagnetic frequencies from wireless technologies?

		Total	Concerned	Somewhat concerned	Somewhat unconcerned	Unconcerned	Unsure [Unprompted]
		Responses	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Region	Canada 2012-10	1000	26.9	33.3	12.5	24.2	3.0
	Atlantic	100	23.0	37.5	8.4	26.8	4.2
	Quebec	250	24.1	31.6	19.3	22.1	2.9
	Ontario	300	28.4	34.7	11.7	24.0	1.2
	Prairies	200	28.1	32.9	8.5	25.5	5.1
	British Columbia	150	30.0	31.3	10.7	24.7	3.3
Gender	Male	485	22.8	28.7	15.0	30.9	2.5
	Female	515	30.8	37.7	10.0	17.9	3.5
Age	18 to 29	205	22.2	37.7	12.2	26.8	1.2
	30 to 39	169	21.8	36.2	17.2	24.2	.6
	40 to 49	208	27.6	33.9	15.5	22.1	.9
	50 to 59	178	35.2	31.7	9.9	21.5	1.7
	60 plus	239	27.9	28.3	8.7	25.9	9.2
Vote Profile	Liberal	247	28.7	35.5	11.0	22.2	2.6
	Conservative	274	25.0	33.3	11.0	27.8	2.9
	NDP	229	26.1	35.1	17.2	20.1	1.6
	Bloc	38	20.5	41.9	24.4	11.6	1.6
	Green	23	23.2	35.4	11.0	27.8	2.7
	Other	10	35.8	41.6	12.4	10.2	.0
	Undecided	178	30.0	25.7	8.3	29.7	6.3

National random telephone survey of 1,000 Canadians aged 18 and over conducted between October 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Accurate ±3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.



## 2012-311 – CITIZENS FOR SAFE TECHNOLOGY – STAT SHEET

Question (first ranked response) – Please rank the following possible sources of electromagnetic frequencies in terms of possible health concerns, where 1 is the source you are most concerned about and 2 is the source that you are the second most concerned about. [RANDOMIZE]

		Total	Cellular phone towers	Cellular phones	Wireless internet (wi-fi)	Radios	Wireless water or gas meters	Baby monitors	Other (please specify)	None [Unprompted]	Unsure [Unprompted]
		Responses	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Region	Canada 2012-10	1000	20.1	46.5	6.4	.5	5.7	2.6	2.0	9.2	6.9
	Atlantic	100	14.6	54.4	5.0	.0	4.6	3.1	3.3	3.2	11.8
	Quebec	250	21.6	39.2	5.4	.5	12.0	4.0	2.9	12.2	2.1
	Ontario	300	19.0	49.4	9.1	.8	3.0	1.7	1.5	9.1	6.5
	Prairies	200	21.1	47.8	5.2	.3	2.3	2.3	1.3	10.6	9.2
	British Columbia	150	22.5	46.2	5.0	.5	5.8	2.1	1.4	6.8	9.8
	Gender										
	Male	485	21.6	42.7	6.2	.8	5.1	3.1	2.6	11.6	6.3
	Female	515	18.8	50.1	6.6	.2	6.3	2.1	1.3	7.0	7.5
Age	18 to 29	205	20.6	48.4	5.5	.0	9.3	1.6	.0	5.2	9.5
	30 to 39	169	27.2	47.8	8.1	.0	4.0	1.9	2.7	6.5	1.9
	40 to 49	208	17.6	49.7	8.5	.0	7.0	2.1	.6	10.7	3.9
	50 to 59	178	22.1	47.0	5.1	.4	5.0	3.5	3.4	8.9	4.5
	60 plus	239	15.5	40.9	5.2	1.8	3.2	3.7	3.3	13.6	12.8
	Vote										
Profile	Liberal	247	21.4	46.0	8.5	.5	7.0	1.3	1.2	7.6	6.5
	Conservative	274	18.7	46.8	5.2	.7	3.0	3.2	2.7	12.6	7.1
	NDP	229	23.7	44.5	7.1	.8	4.4	2.3	1.6	9.4	6.2
	Bloc	38	24.0	32.1	4.7	.0	12.8	11.9	.0	12.3	2.3
	Green	23	15.8	50.2	6.0	.0	3.8	4.1	5.2	9.7	5.1
	Other	10	.0	51.8	18.9	.0	12.4	.0	10.2	.0	6.6
	Undecided	178	16.9	51.8	4.1	.0	8.1	1.7	2.0	6.0	9.5



## 2012-311 – CITIZENS FOR SAFE TECHNOLOGY – STAT SHEET

Question (second ranked response) – Please rank the following possible sources of electromagnetic frequencies in terms of possible health concerns, where 1 is the source you are most concerned about and 2 is the source that you are the second most concerned about. [RANDOMIZE]

		Total	Cellular phone towers	Cellular phones	Wireless internet (wi-fi)	Radios	Wireless water or gas meters	Baby monitors	Other (please specify)	None [Unprompted]	Unsure [Unprompted]
		Responses	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Region	Canada 2012-10	954	24.1	18.1	19.4	2.3	6.9	5.0	3.8	10.0	10.5
	Atlantic	100	24.0	18.6	19.7	2.2	5.2	5.8	2.5	8.7	13.4
	Quebec	250	26.2	23.3	12.1	2.5	8.8	5.6	2.7	15.9	2.9
	Ontario	285	22.2	17.1	22.8	2.3	6.1	4.8	4.7	8.0	12.0
	Prairies	179	25.6	15.6	23.2	1.5	4.7	4.3	3.5	8.3	13.4
	British Columbia	141	22.5	13.9	20.2	2.6	9.2	4.4	5.2	6.8	15.2
Gender	Male	458	21.4	18.5	19.0	2.6	7.1	4.0	4.5	12.2	10.7
	Female	496	26.6	17.8	19.7	2.0	6.7	5.8	3.1	8.0	10.3
Age	18 to 29	200	23.5	21.3	19.3	.9	4.7	8.5	1.7	5.8	14.3
	30 to 39	166	27.7	19.9	18.6	4.3	7.5	1.6	2.7	10.4	7.4
	40 to 49	197	30.2	19.9	19.7	3.3	6.8	3.5	3.2	9.2	4.1
	50 to 59	167	21.8	18.8	22.2	1.8	7.0	5.5	7.3	9.6	5.9
	60 plus	224	18.3	11.9	17.6	1.4	8.4	5.2	4.2	14.6	18.4
Vote Profile	Liberal	241	21.7	15.8	20.0	2.4	7.8	7.0	5.0	9.2	11.1
	Conservative	258	22.1	18.0	21.3	2.8	7.1	2.0	3.3	13.5	9.9
	NDP	215	24.5	20.9	22.9	2.1	4.7	5.2	3.8	8.6	7.2
	Bloc	38	26.0	33.9	7.3	.0	8.5	1.6	5.4	14.9	2.3
	Green	21	32.1	17.6	19.3	.0	7.6	6.3	.0	4.6	12.6
	Other	10	45.3	22.7	16.0	.0	9.5	.0	.0	.0	6.6
	Undecided	172	27.4	14.4	14.1	2.5	7.3	7.0	2.9	8.0	16.5

National random telephone survey of 1,000 Canadians aged 18 and over  
conducted between October 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012.  
Accurate  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20.



## 2012-311 - CITIZENS FOR SAFE TECHNOLOGY - STAT SHEET

Question - Which one of the following groups, if any, are you most concerned about in terms of possible health risks? [RANDOMIZE]

		Total	Children in schools with wireless internet	People who live near cellular phone towers	Heavy users of wireless technology such as cell phones	Not concerned about any	Unsure [Unprompted]
		Responses	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Region	Canada 2012-10	1000	14.3	23.0	35.6	24.7	2.3
	Atlantic	100	13.6	19.6	38.1	25.3	3.4
	Quebec	250	12.6	31.7	29.9	24.1	1.7
	Ontario	300	12.7	21.8	35.7	27.7	2.1
	Prairies	200	16.5	14.9	44.5	21.3	2.7
	British Columbia	150	17.9	24.1	31.5	24.0	2.4
Gender	Male	485	12.4	23.2	33.7	28.8	1.9
	Female	515	16.2	22.9	37.5	20.9	2.6
Age	18 to 29	205	12.9	25.8	40.1	21.2	.0
	30 to 39	169	9.4	23.9	34.8	31.0	.9
	40 to 49	208	16.0	26.4	31.1	25.3	1.1
	50 to 59	178	18.8	19.3	40.6	20.5	.8
	60 plus	239	14.1	19.9	32.6	26.0	7.4
Vote Profile	Liberal	247	17.1	26.3	31.4	22.6	2.7
	Conservative	274	13.4	16.3	39.1	28.7	2.4
	NDP	229	12.6	23.7	38.2	23.8	1.7
	Bloc	38	12.6	51.5	19.6	16.3	.0
	Green	23	2.5	26.5	36.8	28.5	5.7
	Other	10	21.9	19.7	51.9	6.5	.0
	Undecided	178	15.6	21.5	35.3	25.1	2.5

National random telephone survey of 1,000 Canadians aged 18 and over  
conducted between October 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012.  
Accurate  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20.





## 2012-311 - CITIZENS FOR SAFE TECHNOLOGY - STAT SHEET

Question – Has a member of your household ever experienced any health effects that you believe may be the result of electromagnetic frequencies from wireless technologies?

		Total	Experienced	Not experienced	Unsure [Unprompted]
		Responses	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Region	Canada 2012-10	1000	4.3	94.0	1.7
	Atlantic	100	.0	99.2	.8
	Quebec	250	6.0	93.5	.5
	Ontario	300	4.7	94.2	1.1
	Prairies	200	3.1	94.4	2.5
	British Columbia	150	5.1	90.6	4.3
Gender	Male	485	2.7	96.0	1.3
	Female	515	5.7	92.2	2.0
Age	18 to 29	205	8.9	89.5	1.6
	30 to 39	169	4.1	95.9	.0
	40 to 49	208	2.7	96.1	1.1
	50 to 59	178	3.2	94.8	2.0
	60 plus	239	2.6	94.2	3.1
Vote Profile	Liberal	247	5.9	90.4	3.7
	Conservative	274	2.3	97.1	.6
	NDP	229	5.0	94.4	.6
	Bloc	38	4.7	93.6	1.6
	Green	23	3.0	92.9	4.1
	Other	10	9.5	90.5	.0
	Undecided	178	3.9	94.4	1.8