



Report

Public Attitudes Toward Hantavirus

Survey of Canadians

May 19, 2026



Methodology

This week, we surveyed Canadians on their opinions on Hantavirus.

Method

Online survey among respondents 18 years of age or older.
(Canadian sample: **n= 1,511**)

Respondents had the option of completing the survey in French and English and were randomly recruited using LEO's online panel.

Weighting

Results were weighted according to **age, gender, mother tongue, region, education and presence of children in the household** in order to ensure a representative sample of the Canadian population.

When

Data collection from **May 15 to May 18, 2026**.

Margin of error

For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size yields a margin of error no greater than **±2.52%**, (19 times out of 20) for the sample.

Significant Differences

Data in bold **red** characters indicate a significantly lower proportion than that of other respondents. Conversely, data in bold **green** characters indicate a significantly higher proportion than that of other respondents.

Rounded data

The numbers presented have been rounded up. However, the numbers before rounding were used to calculate the sums presented and might therefore not correspond to the manual addition of these numbers.

Questions

Have questions about the data presented in this report? Please contact one of the following people:

Sebastien Dallaire (sdallaire@leger360.com)
Executive Vice-President, Eastern Canada

Andrew Enns (aenns@leger360.com)
Executive Vice-President, Central Canada

Steve Mossop (smossop@leger360.com)
Executive Vice-President, Western Canada

Notes

A more detailed methodology is presented in the Appendix.

The **Most Accurate** Polling Firm in Canada

CANADA 2025

LEGER POLL
Published on
April 26, 2025

OFFICIALS RESULTS
2025 Canada
Federal Election

	43%	43.7%
	39%	41.3%
	8%	6.3%
	6%	6.3%
	2%	1.2%

BRITISH COLUMBIA 2024

LEGER POLL
Published on
October 18, 2024

OFFICIALS RESULTS
2024 British Columbia
Provincial Election

	46%	45%
	42%	43%
	9%	8%
Others	3%	4%

UNITED STATES 2024

LEGER POLL
Published on
November 4, 2024

OFFICIALS RESULTS
2024 United States
Presidential Election

	49%	50%
	49%	48%
Others	2%	2%

Key Highlights

Some of **the key highlights** of our survey...

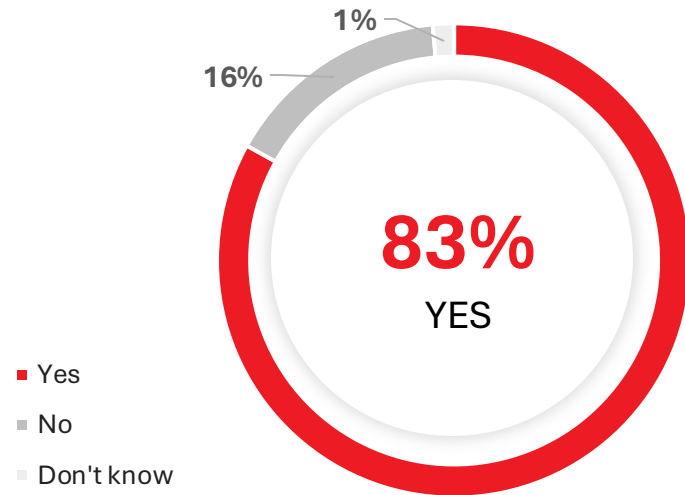
- **Most Canadians (83%) say they have heard of hantavirus**, with awareness significantly higher among Canadians aged 55+ (89%).
- **Nearly four in ten Canadians (38%) say they are concerned about hantavirus, while a majority (59%) say they are not.** Concern is significantly higher among Canadians aged 18-34 (52%) and Ontarians (42%).
- **Around half of Canadians (52%) say they have taken at least one action in response to hantavirus**, most commonly paying closer attention to news or public health updates about the virus (34%), looking for information about how hantavirus is transmitted (22%), or researching its symptoms (18%). Action-taking is significantly higher among those concerned about the virus (77%), Canadians aged 18-34 (66%) and Ontarians (56%).
- About **half of Canadians (48%) correctly identify breathing in dust particles from rodent droppings as the most common way hantavirus is transmitted**, with understanding significantly higher among Manitoba/Saskatchewan residents (65%), Canadians aged 55+ (56%) and those who are not concerned about the virus (52%).
- **One-quarter of Canadians (26%) are worried that hantavirus could lead to another global pandemic**, with concern significantly higher among Canadians aged 18-34 (46%) and Ontarians (30%).
- Nearly **half of Canadians (46%) believe the Government of Canada and public health agencies are doing enough** to reduce the risk of infectious disease outbreaks, with agreement significantly higher among those who are not concerned about the virus (55%), Quebecers (55%), Canadians aged 55+ (52%) and men (49%).

Detailed Results

Awareness of Hantavirus

Q1. Have you ever heard of hantavirus?

Base: All respondents (n=1,511)

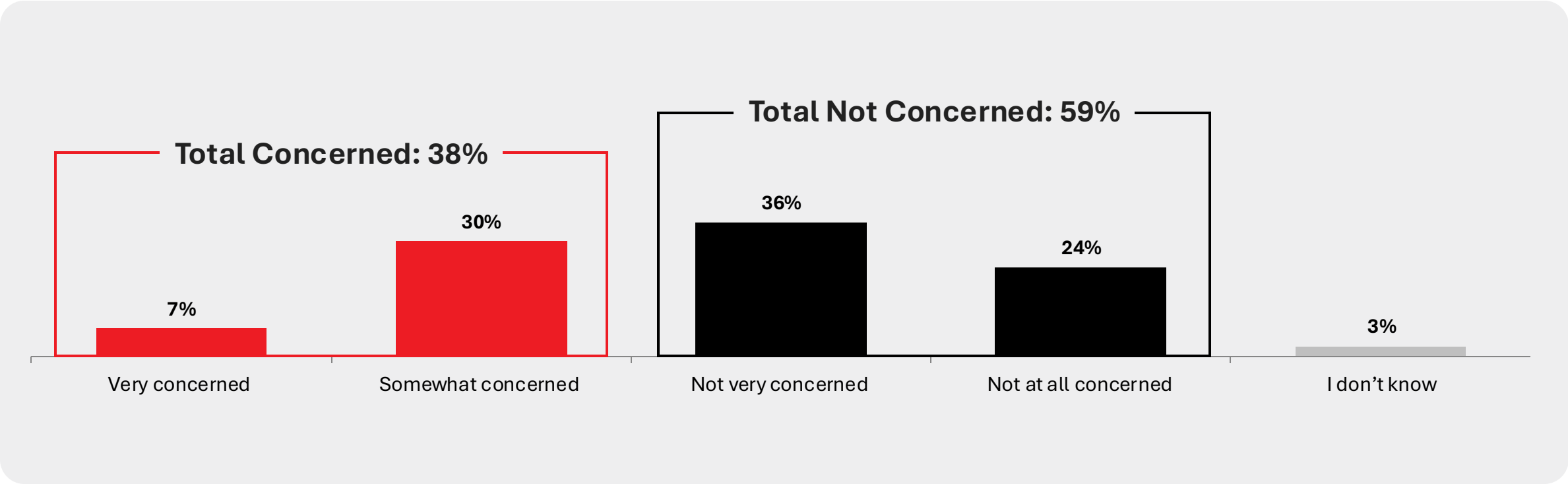


	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Weighted n=	1,511	102	349	586	97	166	211	736	775	404	485	623
Unweighted n=	1,511	100	409	601	125	126	150	748	763	425	395	691
Yes	83%	85%	86%	85%	80%	71%	82%	82%	84%	79%	79%	89%
No	16%	15%	13%	14%	15%	26%	16%	16%	15%	20%	19%	10%
Don't know	1%	0%	1%	1%	4%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%

Level of Concern About Hantavirus (1/2)

Q2. How concerned are you personally about hantavirus?

Base: Respondents who have heard of Hantavirus (n=1,280)



Level of Concern About Hantavirus (1/2)

Q2. How concerned are you personally about hantavirus?

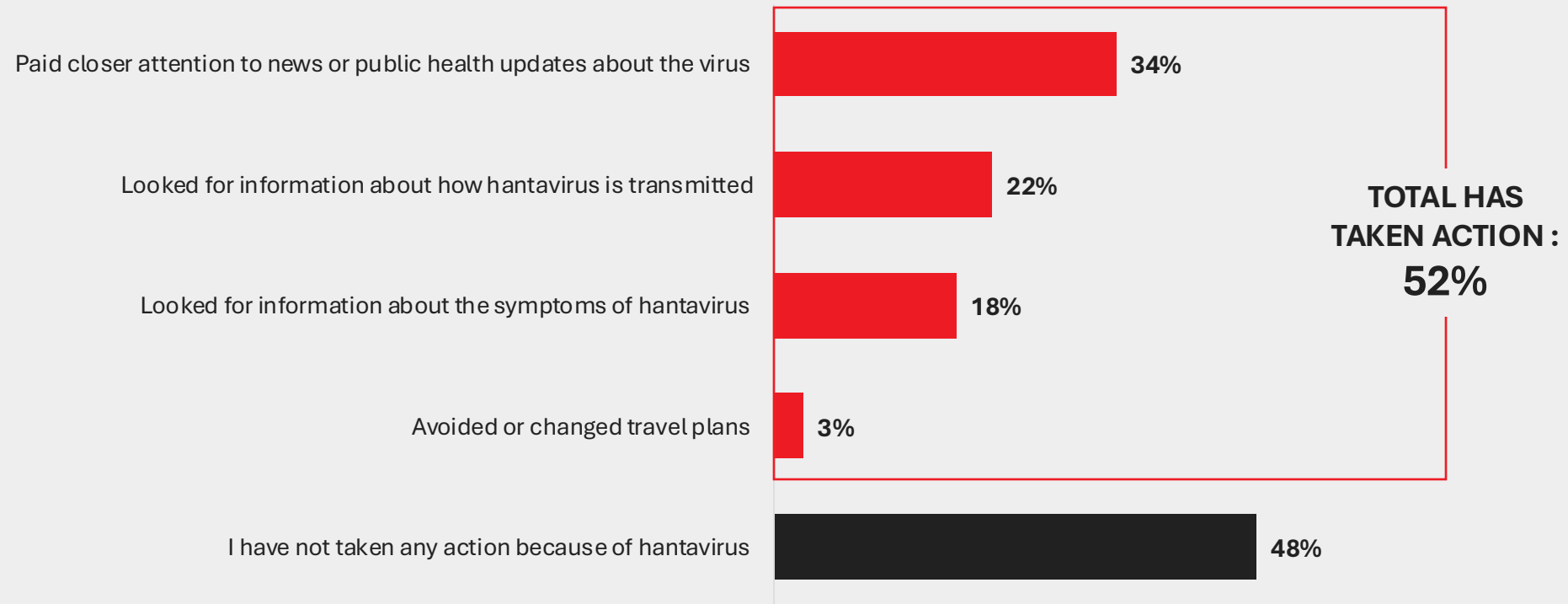
Base: Respondents who have heard of Hantavirus (n=1,280)

	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Weighted n=	1,255	86	300	500	78	117	174	604	650	321	381	553
Unweighted n=	1,280	84	354	518	103	94	127	628	652	344	316	620
TOTAL CONCERNED	38%	35%	30%	42%	29%	37%	46%	38%	38%	52%	35%	32%
Very concerned	7%	4%	5%	9%	3%	6%	13%	8%	7%	13%	6%	5%
Somewhat concerned	30%	32%	25%	34%	26%	31%	33%	29%	32%	38%	29%	27%
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	59%	63%	68%	54%	70%	61%	52%	60%	58%	44%	62%	66%
Not very concerned	36%	37%	44%	31%	40%	33%	32%	32%	39%	29%	36%	39%
Not at all concerned	24%	26%	24%	22%	30%	28%	20%	28%	20%	15%	25%	27%
Don't know	3%	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	4%	3%	2%

Actions Taken in Response to the Situation (1/2)

Q3. Which of the following actions, if any, have you taken?

Base: Respondents who have heard of Hantavirus (n=1,280)



Actions Taken in Response to the Situation (2/2)

Q3. Which of the following actions, if any, have you taken?

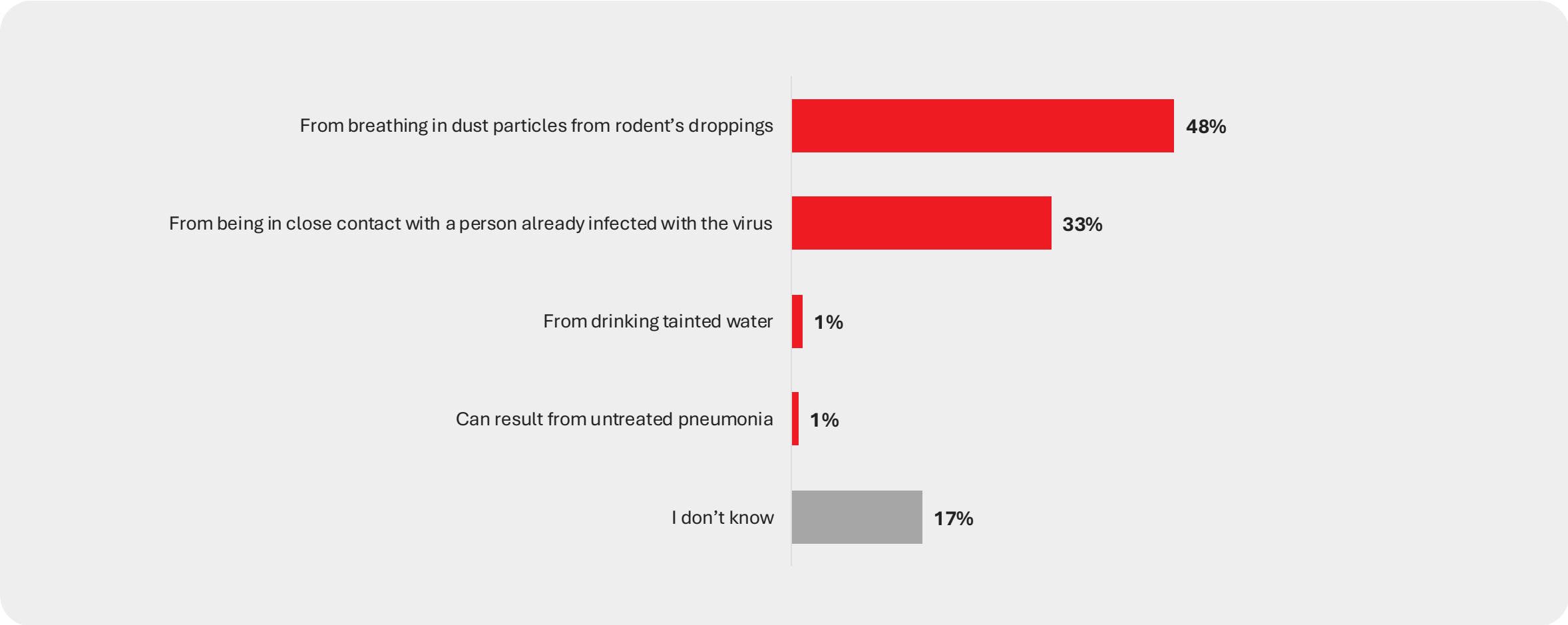
Base: Respondents who have heard of Hantavirus (n=1,280)

	Total CANADA												Concerned about Hantavirus	
		ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No
Weighted n=	1,255	86	300	500	78	117	174	604	650	321	381	553	476	743
Unweighted n=	1,280	84	354	518	103	94	127	628	652	344	316	620	472	778
TOTAL HAS TAKEN ACTION	52%	42%	47%	56%	42%	48%	59%	51%	53%	66%	43%	50%	77%	37%
Paid closer attention to news or public health updates about the virus	34%	23%	33%	38%	26%	30%	38%	31%	37%	34%	27%	39%	47%	27%
Looked for information about how hantavirus is transmitted	22%	18%	18%	23%	17%	23%	28%	22%	22%	37%	19%	15%	37%	12%
Looked for information about the symptoms of hantavirus	18%	11%	17%	20%	13%	15%	22%	20%	17%	29%	17%	13%	33%	9%
Avoided or changed travel plans	3%	5%	2%	3%	5%	2%	4%	2%	4%	4%	3%	2%	5%	2%
I have not taken any action because of hantavirus	48%	58%	53%	44%	58%	52%	41%	49%	47%	34%	57%	50%	23%	63%

Understanding of Hantavirus Transmission (1/2)

Q4. What is the most common way a person can be infected with the hantavirus?

Base: Respondents who have heard of Hantavirus (n=1,280)



Understanding of Hantavirus Transmission (2/2)

Q4. What is the most common way a person can be infected with the hantavirus?

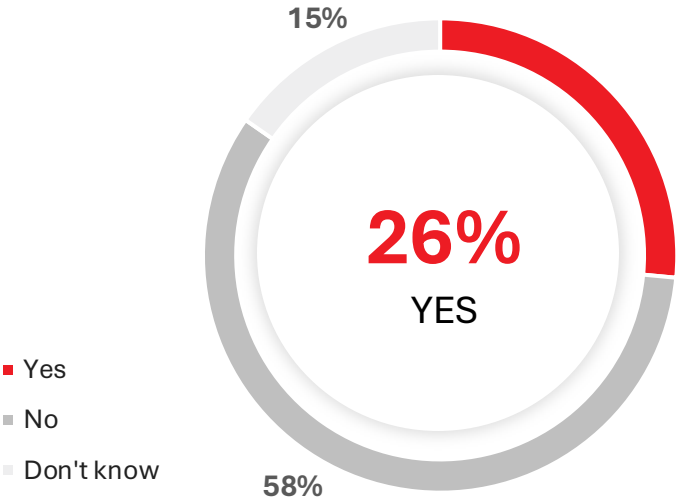
Base: Respondents who have heard of Hantavirus (n=1,280)

	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Concerned about Hantavirus	
													Yes	No
Weighted n=	1,255	86	300	500	78	117	174	604	650	321	381	553	476	743
Unweighted n=	1,280	84	354	518	103	94	127	628	652	344	316	620	472	778
From breathing in dust particles from rodent's droppings	48%	54%	39%	47%	65%	57%	53%	48%	49%	39%	46%	56%	45%	52%
From being in close contact with a person already infected with the virus	33%	26%	33%	34%	19%	33%	38%	34%	32%	34%	34%	31%	41%	28%
From drinking tainted water	1%	4%	1%	1%	3%	3%	1%	1%	1%	4%	1%	0%	2%	1%
Can result from untreated pneumonia	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	3%	0%	0%	2%	0%
I don't know	17%	16%	24%	18%	13%	6%	9%	15%	18%	21%	19%	13%	11%	18%

Concern About Hantavirus Causing a Global Pandemic

Q5. Are you worried that hantavirus could lead to another global pandemic?

Base: Respondents who have heard of Hantavirus (n=1,280)



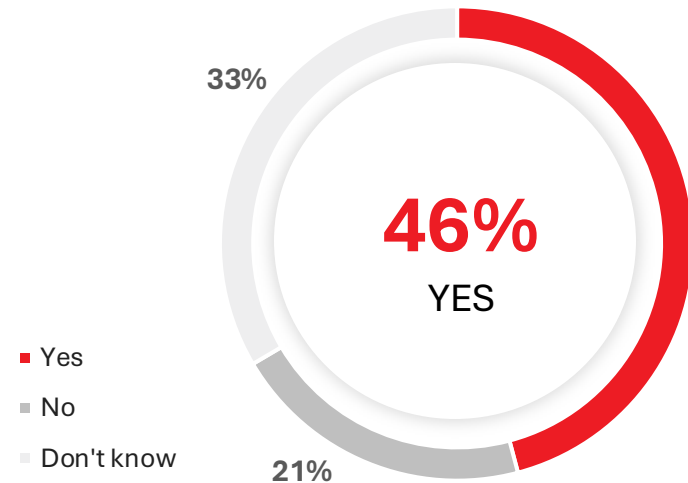
Concerned about Hantavirus

	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Yes	No
Weighted n=	1,255	86	300	500	78	117	174	604	650	321	381	553	476	743
Unweighted n=	1,280	84	354	518	103	94	127	628	652	344	316	620	472	778
Yes	26%	25%	22%	30%	17%	27%	27%	24%	28%	46%	23%	17%	56%	8%
No	58%	66%	62%	53%	71%	61%	56%	63%	54%	41%	59%	68%	27%	81%
Don't know	15%	8%	16%	17%	12%	12%	17%	12%	18%	13%	18%	15%	18%	11%

Views on Efforts to Reduce Infectious Disease Risks

Q6. Do you think the Government of Canada and public health agencies are doing enough to reduce the risk of infectious disease outbreaks, including hantavirus?

Base: All respondents (n=1,511)



	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Concerned about Hantavirus	
													Yes	No
Weighted n=	1,511	102	349	586	97	166	211	736	775	404	485	623	476	743
Unweighted n=	1,511	100	409	601	125	126	150	748	763	425	395	691	472	778
Yes	46%	39%	55%	43%	47%	41%	46%	49%	43%	42%	41%	52%	44%	55%
No	21%	27%	19%	20%	20%	29%	15%	21%	20%	28%	20%	16%	28%	15%
Don't know	33%	35%	26%	37%	33%	30%	39%	29%	37%	30%	39%	32%	29%	30%

Respondent Profile

Respondent profiles

(Base n=1,511)

The table below presents the Canadian distribution of respondents before weighting.

Gender

	Unweighted	Weighted
Male	748	736
Female	763	775

Language (Mother Tongue)

	Unweighted	Weighted
French	350	298
English	1,034	1,094
Other	126	117

Age

	Unweighted	Weighted
18 to 34	425	404
35 to 54	395	485
55+	691	623

Province

	Unweighted	Weighted
British Columbia	150	211
Alberta	126	166
Manitoba/Saskatchewan	125	97
Ontario	601	586
Quebec	409	349
Atlantic	100	102

Our Credentials



Canada

Leger is a member of the [Canadian Research Insights Council \(CRIC\)](#), the industry association for the market/survey/insights research industry.



Europe

Leger is a member of [ESOMAR](#) (European Society for Opinion and Market Research), the global association of opinion polls and marketing research professionals.



America

Leger is also a member of the [Insights Association](#), the American Association of Marketing Research Analytics.



International

Leger is a member of the [Worldwide Independent Network of Market Research \(WIN\)](#), a global alliance of leading independent market research and polling firms that collaborate to share expertise, methodologies, and insights across diverse markets.

Our services

Leger

Marketing research and polling

Customer Experience (CX)

Strategic and operational customer experience consulting services

Leger Analytics (LEA)

Data modelling and analysis

Leger Opinion (LEO)

Panel management

Leger Communities

Online community management

Leger Digital

Digital strategy and user experience

International Research

Worldwide Independent Network (WIN)

300
employees

185
consultants

8
offices

MONTREAL | QUEBEC |
TORONTO | WINNIPEG
EDMONTON | CALGARY |
VANCOUVER | NEW YORK

Leger

The science of people

leger360.com