

EM9305: The Toronto Star, January 18, 1993, page A10

TAKING THE PULSE

71% approve welfare probes

FROM GALLUP CANADA

The vast majority of Canadians questioned say they believe government has the right to verify information given out by people who get welfare payments, a Gallup survey suggests.

Gallup asked 1,011 adults: "Do you think that the government should have the right to verify the information given out by welfare recipients or do you think that such a verification represents an invasion of privacy?"

Seventy-one per cent of those asked said they believed the government should be able test the information, compared with 24 per cent who said they perceived such a verification as violation of the person's civil liberties. Four per cent of respondents said they were unsure or didn't answer the question.

The results vary across the country.

Whereas 56 per cent of those questioned in the Atlantic provinces said they believe government has the right to verify the information given by people who receive welfare, 67 per cent gave that answer in British Columbia, 71 per cent in the Prairies and 76 per cent in Ontario.

In the province of Quebec, where the Liberal government is contemplating just such a move, 73 per cent of Quebecers said they

believe the government has the right, while 24 per cent of those questioned see such a verification as an invasion of privacy and 4 per cent said they were unsure.

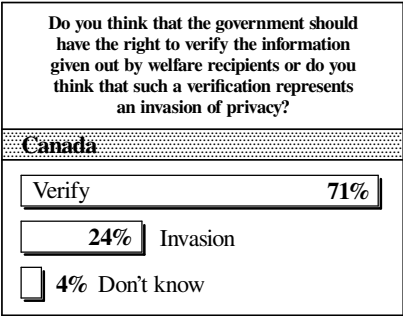
Education and sex appear to be factors in this matter.

Whereas 55 per cent of respondents with public school education believe the government has the right to verify information it gets from people who receive welfare, this figure increases to 66 per cent among those who attended high school, 73 per cent among those who attended college and to 82 per cent among those with a university education.

And whereas 76 per cent of male respondents said they support the government's right

to verify welfare recipients' information, this figure decreases to 67 per cent among women questioned.

Today's results are based on 1,011 telephone interviews with adults, conducted Dec. 19 to 23, 1992. A national telephone sample of this size is accurate within a 3.1 percentage point margin of error, 19 in 20 times. The margins of error are higher for the regions, reflecting smaller sample sizes. For example, in Quebec 258 interviews were conducted with a margin of error of 6.2 percentage points, 19 in 20 times.



Regional breakdown			
	Verify	Invasion	Don't know
Atlantic	56%	35%	9%
Quebec	73	24	4
Ontario	76	22	3
Prairies	71	25	5
B.C.	67	28	6

Education			
	Verify	Invasion	Don't know
Public school	55%	35%	10%
High school	66	30	3
College	73	23	4
University	82	15	3

Note: Percentages may not add exactly to 100, due to rounding.

The article EM9305 reprinted above is used in Chapter 13 of the STAT 231 Course Materials and in Figure 2.19a of the STAT 332 Course Materials.