

5. Confidence Limits and Validation

The entire sample of 4,500 was divided into three segments or waves, the first had a "weighted n" 871, the second consisted of 861, and the third consisted of 836 cases.

Each of the samples produces results which are accurate for the population of Canada as a whole within ± 3.4 percentage points 95 out of 100 times.

In order to validate the sample, we compared our data for the age categories of the population with figures provided by Statistics Canada. Table B outlines the percentage of respondents in each age category for the sample, and the corresponding population figures. As these figures suggest, the sample drawn for this study reflects the more general characteristics of the adult population.

Table B
SAMPLE VALIDATION

AGE	SAMPLE	UNIVERSE ¹
	(n=4500) %	(N=18,759,605) %
18-19 years of age	3.6	4.1
20-24 years of age	9.8	12.0
25-29 years of age	13.4	12.5
30-34 years of age	13.4	11.7
35-39 years of age	14.2	10.8
40-44 years of age	10.7	8.6
45-49 years of age	7.7	7.0
50-54 years of age	6.2	6.6
55-59 years of age	6.1	6.4
60-64 years of age	5.4	6.0
65 years and older	9.5	14.4

¹ Adult population of Canada. Source: 1986 Census of Canada Catalogue.