

## Parking lot survey summary

### Methodology:

Ipsos online panel survey conducted from November 7 to 12, 2024. 628 survey respondents completed the survey out of a total of 801 respondents. Those who have a valid B.C. driver's licence and those who drive in a parking lot more than a few times a year qualified to complete the survey.

Survey data is weighted using B.C. Census data to reflect the overall population of B.C. residents.

### Key findings:

#### **Parking lots are not necessarily seen as a safer environment compared to open roads**

- Drivers tend to feel more stressed than relaxed when driving in busy parking lots than open roads – 51% report feeling more stressed vs. 18% more relaxed.
- Nearly half (47%) disagree that they feel safer driving in a busy parking lot compared to the open road; another 32% are neutral (neither agree nor disagree). This indicates that parking lots are not necessarily considered by most to be a safer driving environment than open roads.

#### **Drivers are less confident navigating parking lots in poor weather conditions**

- Overall, about one-in-four each say they are either 'very nervous' or 'extremely nervous' navigating parking lots during busier times such as weekends and the holiday season (25%), or in dark conditions (27%).
- In comparison, 37% are 'very' or 'extremely nervous' when driving in an outdoor parking lot in heavy rain or snowy conditions. This grows to 42% when driving in heavy rain or snow in dark conditions.



**7 out of 10 drivers have been in or witnessed a collision or near collision in a parking lot**

- 13% have been in a collision while driving their vehicle in a parking lot and 16% when their vehicle was parked in a parking lot.
- 35% have witnessed a collision in a parking lot.
- 35% have witnessed at least one near collision involving another vehicle or pedestrian in a parking lot.
- 27% have had at least one near collision involving another vehicle or pedestrian in a parking lot.

**Many drivers self-report being highly aware of the hazards in a parking lot but are less confident about other drivers**

- Overall, virtually all drivers in British Columbia (99%) say they are ‘somewhat’ or ‘very aware’ of potential hazards in parking lots, with 77% who say they are ‘very aware’. Only 1% noted that they are not aware.
- In line with the high awareness, a majority of drivers say they are more attentive to their surroundings (60%) and drive more cautiously (65%) when in a busy parking lot compared to when driving on the open road.
- When asked about their perception of *other drivers* and their awareness of potential parking lot hazards, a slight majority (55%) think other drivers are either ‘somewhat’ or ‘very aware,’ however only 7% think *other drivers* are ‘very aware’, in contrast to the 77% who report themselves to be ‘very aware’.

**Drivers in British Columbia are likely to reverse into a parking stall whenever possible**

- Almost half of drivers (47%) say they reverse into a parking stall whenever possible.
- The main reasons those who do not reverse into a parking stall to park are that it is not considered necessary to reverse in (25%) or because it’s easier to not back in (19%).
- Only 7% choose not to reverse into a parking spot because they lack confidence.

### **Many drivers perceive the risk of collision in parking lots as low to moderately risky**

- Overall, slightly more than three-quarters of drivers (78%) believe the risk of getting into a collision in parking lots to be low or moderately risky with 39% who rate it as 'moderately risky,' 31% who think it is 'slightly risky' and 8% who believe it is 'not at all risky'. Conversely, 23% think the risk of getting into a crash in a parking lot is 'very' or 'extremely risky'.