BREAKING THE RULES

Some laws we abide, others, not so much

Survey finds dramatic differences in our response depending on the infraction and who sees it

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Pe live in a country governed by rules, regulations and laws — some meant to protect others and some to protect us from ourselves — but according to a new survey by Insights West, we respond very differently to lawbreakers depending on which laws they are breaking.

Watching people flout the rules intended to foster a clean, safe community — such as littering or failing to clean up dog waste — makes our blood boil, said pollster Mario Canseco.

Seeing someone talk on a hand-held phone in traffic drives us mad, especially for those of us who are over 55.

"For young people, the phone is a completely integrated part of their lives and it's how they communicate, while older people just talk to whoever is in the car," he said.

Now, if you want to jaywalk while smoking marijuana, people aren't as likely to get their knickers in a twist about

"It's when people don't take responsibility and someone else has to deal with the consequences — picking up your litter or dog waste, or displacing a handicapped person — we

really hate that," said Canseco. The data from British Columbia paints an interesting picture of near-universal outrage over thoughtlessness and general ennui about crimes with less perceptible consequences.

THREE THINGS THAT UPSET US



Failing to clean up after your dog

Leaving a doggie deuce in a public area drew the highest number of "very upset" responses (68%) and tied with littering as the most reprehensible act in the survey.



Talking on a cellphone while driving

92%

Law or no law, people are still talking on their handheld phones while they drive. B.C. was relatively late to pass distracted driving laws, but we are quick to heap scorn on those who flout the rules.



Parking in a handicapped spot

No one likes to be incorvenienced, but people who park in a handicapped spot without a decal are almost univer sally reviled for making life harder on people with mobility issues.

THREE THINGS THAT DON'T UPSET US MUCH



Smoking marijuana

41%

Only about one person in five reported being "very upset" when others smoke marijuana and the same number were "moderately upset." The same was true for men, women, young and old. The other 60 per cent were cool with it. Daddio.



Downloading copyrighted material 31%

You won't need extra fingers or toes to count the percentage of young people who care about copyright protection. A mere 3% of people under 35 are very upset by illegal downloaders, while 45% of people over 55 were moderately upset.



Watering outside permitted hours

52%

We are about evenly sp on the evil of watering: lawn against governme imposed rules. Like dov loading and smoking p many people view this as a victimless offence and take little notice of perpetrators, according Canseco.

THINGS WOMEN HATE MORE THAN MEN



Jaywalking

Women are twice as likely to report being "very upset" by jaywalkers (12%), while only 1% of people of both sexes under 35 cared that much about using crosswalks. Kids, what are you going to do?



Speeding on a municipal road

Fully 45% of women are very upset by people who speed on local streets, a level of irritation exceeded only by people of both sexes over 55 who really hate it, among whom 86% were at least moderately upset.



Riding a bike without a helmet

Canseco speculates thathe mothering instinct comes out when wome see people endangerin themselves unnecessarily. Women are 62% mothickely to be very upset be helmetless riders than