

YouGov / Dignity in Dying Survey Results

Sample Size: 1727 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 19th - 20th October 2014

	Westminster VI					2010 Vote			Gender		Age				Social Grade		Region					
	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	UKIP		Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-59	60+	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland	
Weighted Sample	1727	X	X	X	X	529	407	342	838	889	206	437	591	494	984	743	221	561	370	425	150	
Unweighted Sample	1727	457	428	95	246	568	413	350	825	902	70	375	679	603	1143	584	279	537	333	394	184	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Currently it is illegal for a doctor to help someone with a terminal illness to end their life. There will be a Bill in Parliament this year that, if passed, would allow terminally ill adults the option of assisted dying. This would mean being provided with life-ending medication to take themselves if two doctors thought they met all of the safeguards. They would need to be of sound mind, be terminally ill and have 6 months or less to live, and have made a clear and settled decision with time to consider all other options. Whether or not you would want the choice for yourself, to what extent would you support or oppose this Assisted Dying Bill becoming law?

Strongly support	41	44	44	29	47	42	46	39	40	42	25	39	48	43	39	45	30	41	40	48	46
Tend to support	36	36	33	56	34	36	32	45	38	34	36	38	33	37	39	32	37	38	37	34	29
TOTAL SUPPORT	77	80	77	85	81	78	78	84	78	76	61	77	81	80	78	77	67	79	77	82	75
Tend to oppose	7	10	6	2	4	8	7	6	7	6	5	6	6	8	9	4	10	7	7	4	7
Strongly oppose	6	6	7	5	9	8	5	3	6	6	8	4	5	8	6	5	10	4	6	5	10
TOTAL OPPOSE	13	16	13	7	13	16	12	9	13	12	13	10	11	16	15	9	20	11	13	9	17
Don't know	10	4	10	8	8	6	10	6	9	11	25	12	8	4	7	13	13	10	10	9	8

On the next few pages, there are some arguments people have made in opposition to assisted dying. How convincing or unconvincing do you find each of the following arguments?

Many surveys show the majority of doctors oppose a change in the law to permit assisted suicide, as does the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the British Geriatric Society and the Association for Palliative Medicine.

Very convincing	8	9	8	6	11	10	8	8	8	8	4	6	8	11	8	8	11	8	7	8	5
Fairly convincing	28	32	29	34	22	27	28	34	28	27	32	31	25	27	30	25	31	25	32	24	33
TOTAL CONVINCING	36	41	37	40	33	37	36	42	36	35	36	37	33	38	38	33	42	33	39	32	38
Fairly unconvincing	26	29	25	33	26	29	24	28	27	26	26	23	25	31	30	22	23	27	23	30	27
Very unconvincing	12	13	11	6	18	14	12	9	15	9	9	10	15	12	11	13	10	12	13	12	13
TOTAL UNCONVINCING	38	42	36	39	44	43	36	37	42	35	35	33	40	43	41	35	33	39	36	42	40
Don't know	26	17	27	20	23	20	28	21	23	29	28	31	27	20	21	32	25	29	25	26	23

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

All major disability rights advocacy groups in Britain oppose a change in the law to permit assisted suicide including Disability Rights UK, SCOPE, UK Disabled Person's Council and Not Dead Yet UK.

Very convincing	10	9	12	13	9	11	11	11	10	9	15	9	8	10	12	7	13	9	9	8	11
Fairly convincing	26	29	27	32	21	25	27	31	24	27	29	27	25	24	29	21	30	25	27	22	28
TOTAL CONVINCING	36	38	39	45	30	36	38	42	34	36	44	36	33	34	41	28	43	34	30	39	
Fairly unconvincing	26	31	25	26	27	30	25	31	28	25	17	26	24	34	26	27	21	28	23	31	26
Very unconvincing	13	15	11	13	19	16	12	10	17	10	9	12	17	12	14	13	11	11	16	15	16
TOTAL UNCONVINCING	39	46	36	39	46	46	37	41	45	35	26	38	41	46	40	40	32	39	39	46	42
Don't know	25	16	25	17	23	18	26	16	21	29	30	26	26	20	19	32	26	27	25	24	18

The risk of people feeling pressurised into ending their life early so as not to be a financial or care burden on loved ones, as has happened in the US where more than six in ten of those requesting a lethal prescription in Washington State (where the law is similar to that proposed in the House of Lords debate) say that one of their reasons for doing so was not to be a burden on friends, family or caregivers.

Very convincing	15	13	19	15	17	15	18	16	13	17	13	15	14	17	16	14	15	16	16	15	11
Fairly convincing	35	41	31	43	31	38	29	38	36	34	42	33	33	35	38	31	37	37	32	33	39
TOTAL CONVINCING	50	54	50	58	48	53	47	54	49	51	55	48	47	52	54	45	52	53	48	48	50
Fairly unconvincing	19	23	18	24	22	22	20	22	21	17	4	19	19	25	20	18	17	16	20	23	23
Very unconvincing	7	7	6	7	12	8	7	7	8	6	4	6	10	6	8	6	6	8	7	7	7
TOTAL UNCONVINCING	26	30	24	31	34	30	27	29	29	23	8	25	29	31	28	24	23	24	27	30	30
Don't know	24	16	26	10	18	17	25	17	22	25	37	26	23	16	18	31	25	24	25	22	20

Concerns that end-of-life care would be likely to worsen under financial pressures because it costs on average £3000 to £4000 a week to provide in-patient hospice care, but just a one-off cost of £5 to pay for the drugs which would help them commit suicide.

Very convincing	16	15	20	11	18	16	19	15	14	18	14	12	18	17	15	16	19	16	15	15	14
Fairly convincing	29	34	25	30	35	31	27	31	30	28	27	33	27	27	30	27	26	30	31	26	28
TOTAL CONVINCING	45	49	45	41	53	47	46	46	44	46	41	45	45	44	45	43	45	46	46	41	42
Fairly unconvincing	19	22	17	33	18	22	17	22	23	16	10	21	19	22	23	14	19	19	16	21	22
Very unconvincing	12	13	10	12	12	13	10	12	13	10	8	10	12	13	12	11	10	11	11	13	13
TOTAL UNCONVINCING	31	35	27	45	30	35	27	34	36	26	18	31	31	35	35	25	29	30	27	34	35
Don't know	25	16	29	15	17	19	27	20	21	29	41	24	24	21	20	32	25	25	27	24	24

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Changes in the law to allow assisted suicide and/or euthanasia in other countries like Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland have led to a steady annual increase in the number of cases and spread of the practice to involve people with chronic but not fatal diseases, disabled people, children and those with mental illnesses and dementia.

Very convincing	12	9	18	10	8	11	16	13	11	12	11	9	13	12	12	11	12	12	10	12	11
Fairly convincing	29	37	25	43	33	30	24	37	30	28	30	31	27	30	33	25	30	30	29	28	29
TOTAL CONVINCING	41	46	43	53	41	41	40	50	41	40	41	40	40	42	45	36	42	42	39	40	40
Fairly unconvincing	21	22	19	20	25	24	21	22	23	19	13	20	22	24	23	19	18	19	21	22	27
Very unconvincing	10	12	11	7	11	12	9	10	12	9	7	10	11	11	11	10	10	11	10	11	9
TOTAL UNCONVINCING	31	34	30	27	36	36	30	32	35	28	20	30	33	35	34	29	28	30	31	33	36
Don't know	28	21	27	20	22	23	29	19	24	32	39	30	26	23	22	36	30	28	30	27	23

On the few next pages, there are some arguments people have made in favour of assisted dying. How convincing or unconvincing do you find each of the following arguments?

Thousands of doctors support a change in the law and polling this year found almost two thirds of doctors would support a safeguarded system for terminally ill patients, rather than the current system which prohibits a safeguarded practice.

Very convincing	22	25	22	13	24	25	25	21	21	22	15	20	23	24	21	23	16	22	20	24	26
Fairly convincing	45	48	42	60	42	46	40	52	44	45	40	44	45	47	46	43	44	44	48	46	36
TOTAL CONVINCING	67	73	64	73	66	71	65	73	65	67	55	64	68	71	67	66	60	66	68	70	62
Fairly unconvincing	10	10	10	6	8	10	9	10	11	8	8	11	10	9	11	7	12	10	9	8	14
Very unconvincing	5	6	4	5	8	7	5	3	6	5	7	2	5	8	6	5	8	5	5	4	7
TOTAL UNCONVINCING	15	16	14	11	16	17	14	13	17	13	15	13	15	17	17	12	20	15	14	12	21
Don't know	19	11	21	15	18	13	21	14	17	20	29	22	18	12	16	22	20	19	19	17	17

A poll of 1,000 disabled people found that 79% would support a change in the law to allow assisted dying for terminally ill adults.

Very convincing	25	28	20	23	33	29	27	23	24	26	10	24	27	31	22	29	22	29	20	26	26
Fairly convincing	42	43	46	51	38	42	39	53	43	42	48	41	42	42	44	40	36	40	49	45	40
TOTAL CONVINCING	67	71	66	74	71	71	66	76	67	68	58	65	69	73	66	69	58	69	69	71	66
Fairly unconvincing	10	13	10	11	9	11	11	8	12	9	11	11	10	9	13	7	15	11	9	9	12
Very unconvincing	6	7	4	3	9	8	5	4	7	5	4	5	6	7	7	5	10	5	5	4	9
TOTAL UNCONVINCING	16	20	14	14	18	19	16	12	19	14	15	16	16	16	20	12	25	16	14	13	21
Don't know	16	10	19	12	11	11	18	12	15	18	26	18	15	11	14	19	18	16	17	17	13

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

The lack of a safeguarded assisted dying law forces some dying people to take matters into their own hands. For example, those that can afford it can travel to Switzerland to die. Not only would a change in the law provide the choice to have an assisted death at home, but it would also provide better protection through upfront safeguards.

Very convincing	28	34	25	27	32	34	28	28	26	31	22	22	31	33	27	30	23	29	28	31	27
Fairly convincing	39	43	39	52	35	40	39	46	40	39	32	45	38	40	43	35	36	42	39	40	34
TOTAL CONVINCING	67	77	64	79	67	74	67	74	66	70	54	67	69	73	70	65	59	71	67	71	61
Fairly unconvincing	9	7	9	5	11	6	8	9	11	7	10	9	9	7	9	9	11	7	9	8	13
Very unconvincing	4	4	4	3	9	6	5	2	5	3	3	3	5	6	5	4	6	3	5	3	7
TOTAL UNCONVINCING	13	11	13	8	20	12	13	11	16	10	13	12	14	13	14	13	17	10	14	11	20
Don't know	19	12	23	13	13	14	20	15	17	21	33	21	17	15	16	24	24	19	19	18	20

The proposed law in England and Wales is more tightly defined than those in some other European countries; instead it is very similar to the assisted dying law in Oregon, USA, which has not changed in the 17 years since it was introduced. The proposed law would only be available to terminally ill adults with the mental capacity to make the decision. It would not apply to people with non-terminal diseases, disabled people, children or people with mental illnesses.

Very convincing	27	32	24	32	26	30	23	32	25	28	16	25	27	32	29	24	23	29	27	26	23
Fairly convincing	37	37	37	42	37	37	36	40	38	36	42	39	36	35	40	33	38	36	38	38	32
TOTAL CONVINCING	64	69	61	74	63	67	59	72	63	64	58	64	63	67	69	57	61	65	65	64	55
Fairly unconvincing	9	10	10	10	9	9	11	5	11	7	5	9	10	10	9	9	10	8	8	9	13
Very unconvincing	5	4	4	1	9	5	5	6	6	4	3	3	5	5	4	5	5	4	4	5	6
TOTAL UNCONVINCING	14	14	14	11	18	14	16	11	17	11	8	12	15	15	13	14	15	12	12	14	19
Don't know	23	17	24	14	19	19	24	17	20	25	34	24	22	18	18	29	25	23	23	21	26

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Unweighted Sample	1727	457	428	95	246	568	413	350	825	902	70	375	679	603	1143	584	279	537	333	394	184	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Nearly all patients who have assistance to die in the US state of Oregon receive hospice care and support up until they die and many more dying patients take comfort from knowing the choice of assisted dying is there. End-of-life care improves in places where assisted dying is legal practice.

Very convincing	31	35	30	29	34	34	31	33	29	33	22	24	34	36	31	30	26	32	30	32	28
Fairly convincing	37	37	35	50	34	35	36	42	37	37	33	40	36	37	39	34	34	36	40	38	33
TOTAL CONVINCING	68	72	65	79	68	69	67	75	66	70	55	64	70	73	70	64	60	68	70	70	61
Fairly unconvincing	8	9	8	6	8	9	8	8	10	6	11	8	8	7	10	6	10	8	6	8	10
Very unconvincing	4	4	4	2	7	5	4	4	5	4	3	5	4	5	4	5	6	4	4	3	7
TOTAL UNCONVINCING	12	13	12	8	15	14	12	12	15	10	14	13	12	12	14	11	16	12	10	11	17
Don't know	20	14	23	12	16	17	22	13	20	21	32	23	18	15	16	25	24	20	20	18	21

Taking all these arguments into account and thinking about the Assisted Dying Bill... Whether or not you would want the choice for yourself, to what extent would you support or oppose this Assisted Dying Bill becoming law?

Strongly support	33	37	31	33	42	37	35	33	32	35	18	31	36	39	33	34	25	35	33	34	38
Tend to support	36	39	34	44	30	38	33	40	37	35	27	36	37	37	37	34	32	37	35	38	28
TOTAL SUPPORT	69	76	65	77	72	75	68	73	69	70	45	67	73	76	70	68	57	72	68	72	66
Tend to oppose	7	7	9	7	5	6	8	10	8	7	6	7	7	9	9	5	8	6	8	6	11
Strongly oppose	6	7	6	6	11	9	6	3	7	6	10	4	5	7	7	5	11	4	5	6	10
TOTAL OPPOSE	13	14	15	13	16	15	14	13	15	13	16	11	12	16	16	10	19	10	13	12	21
Don't know	17	10	20	10	12	10	18	15	17	17	38	22	15	8	14	21	23	17	18	16	13