

Dying With Dignity Canada

February 2016



METHODOLOGY

- These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted on behalf of Dying With Dignity Canada.
- For the poll, a sample of 2,530 was surveyed online via Ipsos I-Say panel from February 2 to February 5, including samples of:
 - n = 400 in BC, n = 300 in AB, n = 250 in Man/Sask, n = 800 in Ontario, n = 350 in Quebec, n = 430 in Atlantic Canada (including n = 300 in Nova scotia)
- Quotas and weighting were employed to ensure that the sample's national composition reflects that of the Canadian population according to census information.
- The precision of online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case the results are considered accurate to within +/- 2.2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, of what the results would have been had all Canadian adults been surveyed.
- The credibility interval will be wider for subsets of the population.

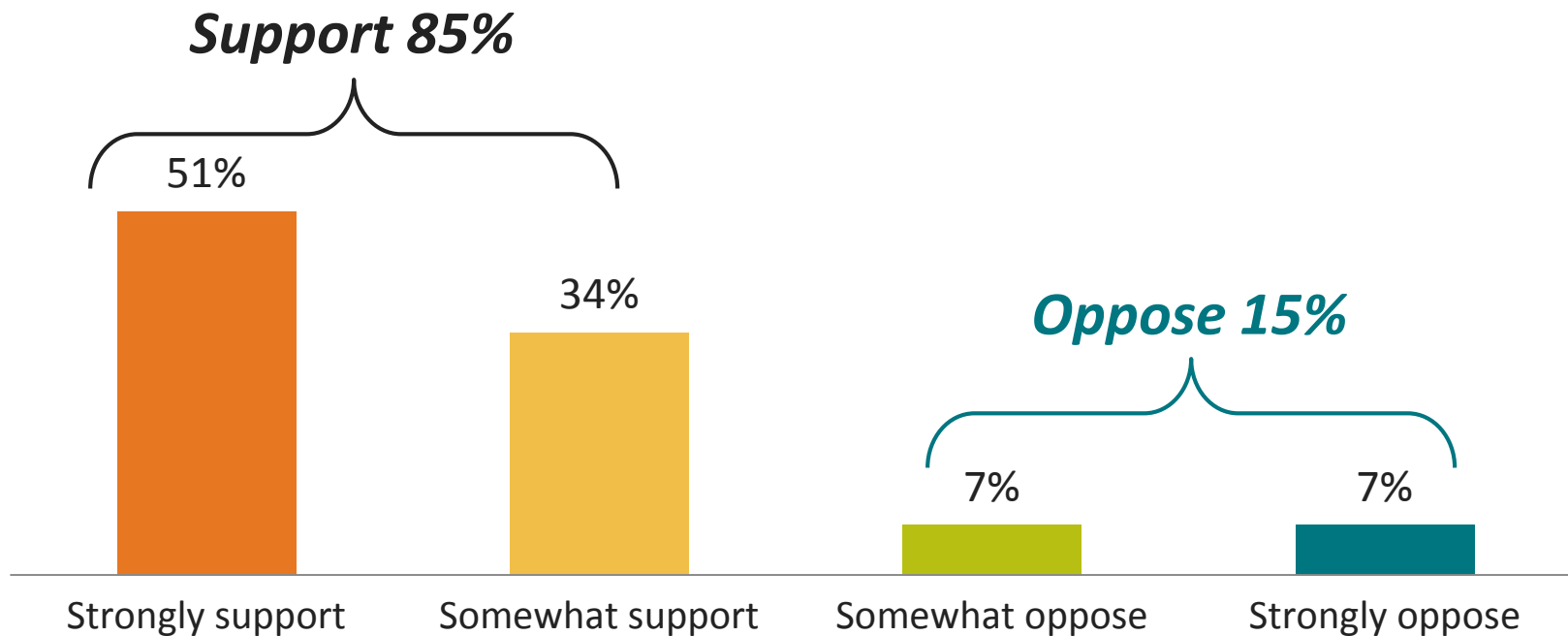
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 85% support (51% strongly) the Supreme Court's decision vs. 15% who oppose (7% strongly)
- Turning to the issue of advance consent for physician-assisted dying:
 - 80% support (44% strongly) assisted death for patients who are competent at the time of the request but not competent at the time the request is carried out, as long as the person has a diagnosis of a grievous and irremediable medical condition when the request is made. For example, if a patient has a diagnosis of dementia and requests to have assistance to die when they become bedridden and unable to bathe, shave and toilet themselves, but is no longer competent when these conditions arise.
 - 82% support (45% strongly) assisted death for patients who are competent at the time of the request but not competent at the time the assisted death is to be carried out. For example, a patient and her doctor agree on Friday to schedule an assisted death for the following Monday, but over the weekend the patient slips into a coma.
 - 71% support (33% strongly) assisted death for patients who are competent at the time of the request even if they do not have a grievous and irremediable medical condition. For example, a person may wish to write advance instructions specifying that they are to receive an assisted death if they have a stroke and are unable to move or communicate, even if they have not been diagnosed as being at risk of having a stroke when they write their advance instructions.
 - When asked to choose between two distinct options, 64% say assisted dying should be available even if the patient is not competent at the time the request is to be carried out vs. 36% who say the patient should be competent.

DETAILED FINDINGS

SUPPORT OR OPPOSE SUPREME COURT DECISION

- **Nine in ten (85%) support the Supreme Court's decision to allow physician-assisted dying to individuals with a grievous and irremediable medical condition that causes enduring suffering that is intolerable to the individual, and who clearly consents to the termination of their life.**



As you may know, the Supreme Court of Canada recently ruled that competent Canadians will soon have the right to a physician's assistance to die. Adults with a grievous and irremediable medical condition (due to illness, injury or disability) that causes enduring suffering that is intolerable to the individual, and who clearly consent to the termination of their life, will soon have the right to a physician's assistance to die. Do you support or oppose the Supreme Court's decision?

Base: All Respondents n=2530

- Support is strong across every demographic group studied.

	Total	Gender		AGE			REGION						Healthcare provider		Physically challenged		Exp or witnessed severe suffering		Exp or witnessed dementia	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	BC	AB	SK/MB	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
		(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)	(B)	(Y)	(Z)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Base: All Respondents	(n=2530)	(n=1065)	(n=1465)	(n=652)	(n=932)	(n=946)	(n=400)	(n=300)	(n=250)	(n=800)	(n=350)	(n=430)	(n=156)	(n=2374)	(n=83)	(n=2447)	(n=1606)	(n=924)	(n=1617)	(n=913)
Summary																				
Support	85%	88% _B	83%	85%	85%	86%	86%	88%	83%	84%	87%	86%	83%	85%	92%*	85%	87% _b	83%	85%	85%
Oppose	15%	12%	17% _A	15%	15%	14%	14%	12%	17%	16%	13%	14%	17%	15%	8%*	15%	13%	17% _a	15%	15%

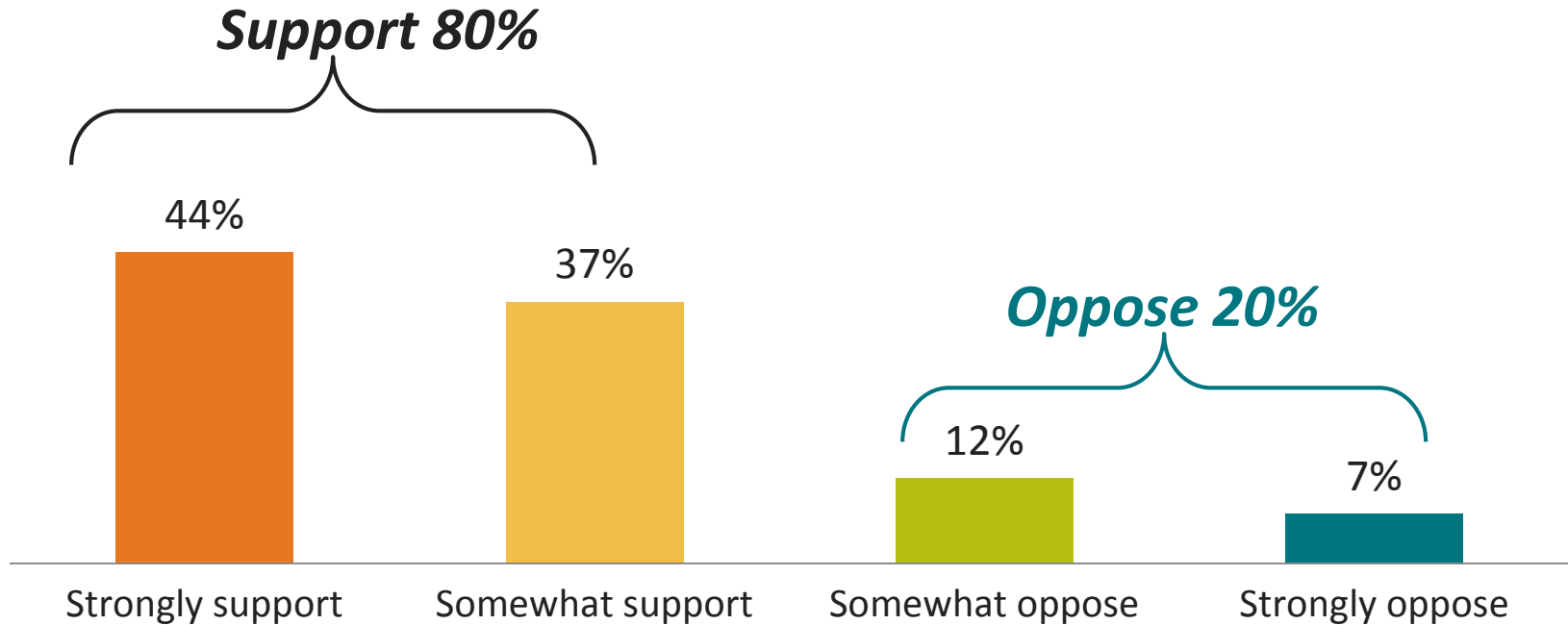
	Total	Likely Voter		Federal Vote						Religious Identity					Church attendance		
		Certain	Not Certain	Conservative Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party	Parti Quebecois	Other Party	I would not vote/don't know/undecided	Atheist / Agnostic/Humanist	Protestant or other Christian	Roman Catholic	No Religious Identity	Don't know/Refused	Regular	Occasional	Infrequent/Non
		(I)	(J)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(K)	(P)	(Q)	(T)	(U)	(V)	(W)	(X)
Base: All Respondents	(n=2530)	(n=1549)	(n=981)	(n=515)	(n=1105)	(n=291)	(n=40)	(n=73)	(n=506)	(n=278)	(n=727)	(n=626)	(n=576)	(n=90)	(n=419)	(n=297)	(n=1814)
Summary																	
Support	85%	86%	84%	78%	87% _C	91% _C	92%**	88%*	85% _C	98% _{PQTU}	77%	83% _P	93% _{PQU}	85%	58%	74% _V	92% _{VW}
Oppose	15%	14%	16%	22% _{DEH}	13%	9%	8%**	12%*	15%	2%	23% _{KQT}	17% _{KT}	7% _K	15% _{KT}	42% _{WX}	26% _X	8%

As you may know, the Supreme Court of Canada recently ruled that competent Canadians will soon have the right to a physician's assistance to die. Adults with a grievous and irremediable medical condition (due to illness, injury or disability) that causes enduring suffering that is intolerable to the individual, and who clearly consent to the termination of their life, will soon have the right to a physician's assistance to die. Do you support or oppose the Supreme Court's decision?

Base: All Respondents n=2530

SCENARIO 1: COMPETENT AT TIME OF REQUEST BUT NOT COMPETENT AT TIME THE REQUEST IS CARRIED OUT, AS LONG AS GRIEVOUS AND IRREMEDEABLE MEDICAL CONDITION EXISTS AT TIME OF REQUEST

- **Eight in ten (80%) support physician-assisted death for patients who are competent at the time of the request but not competent at the time the request is carried out, as long as the person has a diagnosis of a grievous and irremediable medical condition when the request is made. Two in ten (20%) oppose physician-assisted death in this situation.**



Assuming the patient meets all the other criteria for a physician-assisted death, would you support or oppose physician assisted death for patients who are competent at the time of the request but not competent at the time the request is carried out, as long as the person has a diagnosis of a grievous and irremediable medical condition when the request is made? For example, if a patient has a diagnosis of dementia and requests to have assistance to die when they become bedridden and unable to bathe, shave and toilet themselves, but is no longer competent when these conditions arise.

Base: All Respondents n=2530

COMPETENT AT TIME OF REQUEST BUT NOT COMPETENT AT TIME THE REQUEST IS CARRIED OUT, AS LONG AS GRIEVOUS AND IRREMIEDIABLE MEDICAL CONDITION EXISTS AT TIME OF REQUEST

- A majority of Canadians in each of these demographic groups supports physician-assisted death in this scenario, including a majority (59%) of those who attend a place of worship on a weekly basis.

	Total	Gender		AGE			REGION						Healthcare provider		Physically challenged		Exp or witnessed severe suffering		Exp or witnessed dementia	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	BC	AB	SK/MB	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
		(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)	(B)	(Y)	(Z)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Base: All Respondents	(n=2530)	(n=1065)	(n=1465)	(n=652)	(n=932)	(n=946)	(n=400)	(n=300)	(n=250)	(n=800)	(n=350)	(n=430)	(n=156)	(n=2374)	(n=83)	(n=2447)	(n=1606)	(n=924)	(n=1617)	(n=913)
Summary																				
Support	80%	82%	79%	78%	81%	82%	81%	80%	80%	81%	79%	82%	76%	81%	88%*	80%	83% _b	76%	81%	79%
Oppose	20%	18%	21%	22%	19%	18%	19%	20%	20%	19%	21%	18%	24%	19%	12%*	20%	17%	24% _a	19%	21%

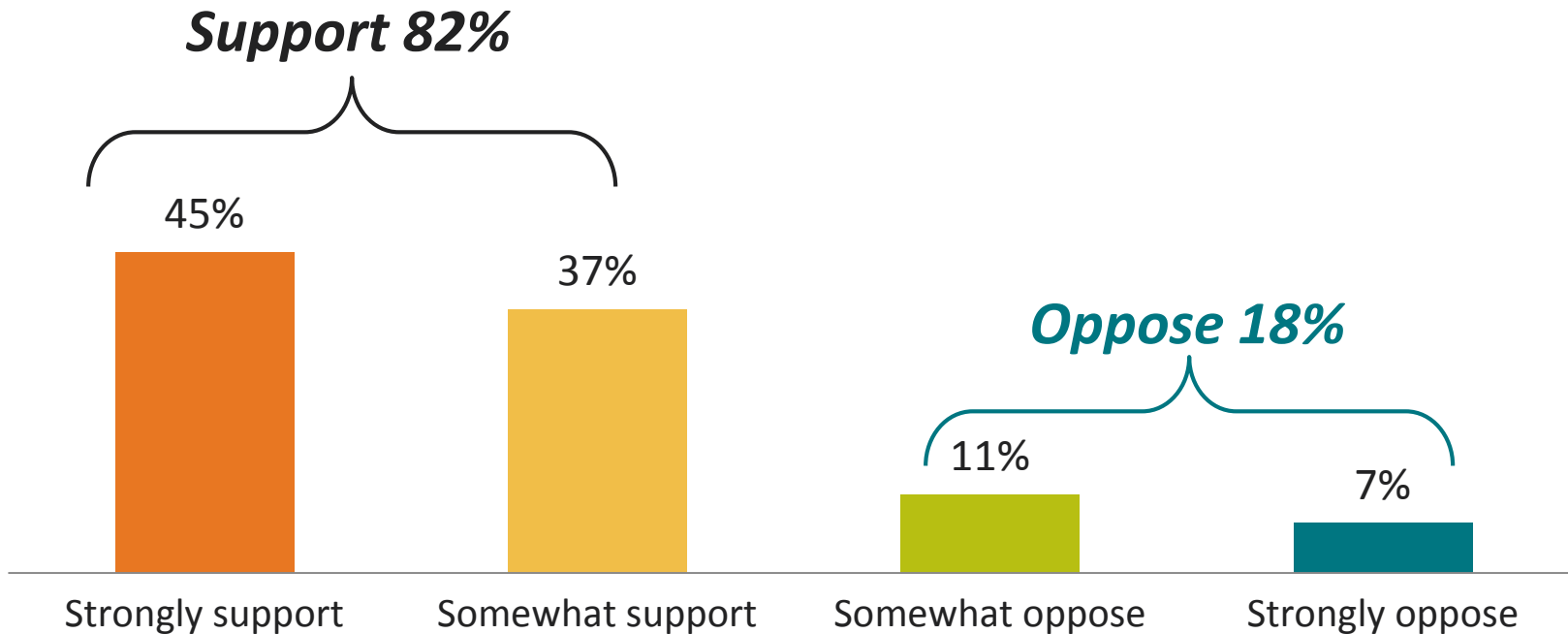
	Total	Likely Voter		Federal Vote						Religious Identity					Church attendance		
		Certain	Not Certain	Conservative Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party	Parti Quebecois	Other Party	I would not vote/don't know/undecided	Atheist / Agnostic / Humanist	Protestant or other Christian	Roman Catholic	No Religious Identity	Don't know/Refused	Regular	Occasional	Infrequent/ Non
		(I)	(J)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(K)	(P)	(Q)	(T)	(U)	(V)	(W)	(X)
Base: All Respondents	(n=2530)	(n=1549)	(n=981)	(n=515)	(n=1105)	(n=291)	(n=40)	(n=73)	(n=506)	(n=278)	(n=727)	(n=626)	(n=576)	(n=90)	(n=419)	(n=297)	(n=1814)
Summary																	
Support	80%	83% _J	78%	74%	83% _C	84% _C	86% _{**}	85% _*	79%	91% _{PQU}	73%	78% _P	86% _{PQ}	81%	59%	69% _V	86% _{VW}
Oppose	20%	17%	22% _I	26% _{DE}	17%	16%	14% _{**}	15% _*	21%	9%	27% _{KQT}	22% _{KT}	14%	19% _K	41% _{WX}	31% _X	14%

Assuming the patient meets all the other criteria for a physician-assisted death, would you support or oppose physician-assisted death for patients who are competent at the time of the request but not competent at the time the request is carried out, as long as the person has a diagnosis of a grievous and irremediable medical condition when the request is made? For example, if a patient has a diagnosis of dementia and requests to have assistance to die when they become bedridden and unable to bathe, shave and toilet themselves, but is no longer competent when these conditions arise.

Base: All Respondents n=2530

SCENARIO 2: COMPETENT AT TIME OF REQUEST, BUT NOT AT TIME REQUEST IS CARRIED OUT (IN CASE OF SUDDEN INCAPACITY)

- **Eight in ten (82%) support physician-assisted dying for patients who are competent at time of the request but not competent at the time of death. Two in ten (18%) oppose physician-assisted dying in this situation.**



Assuming the patient meets all the other criteria for an assisted death and has otherwise been approved, would you support or oppose physician-assisted dying for patients who have a scheduled assisted death and who are competent at the time of the request but not competent at the time the assisted death is to be carried out? For example, a patient and her doctor agree on Friday to schedule an assisted death on the following Monday, but over the weekend the patient slips into a coma.

Base: All Respondents n=2530

COMPETENT AT TIME OF REQUEST, BUT NOT AT TIME REQUEST IS CARRIED OUT (IN CASE OF SUDDEN INCAPACITY)

- A majority of Canadians in each of these demographic groups support physician-assisted death in this scenario

	Total	Gender		AGE			REGION						Healthcare provider		Physically challenged		Exp or witnessed severe suffering		Exp or witnessed dementia	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	BC	AB	SK/MB	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
		(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)	(B)	(Y)	(Z)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Base: All Respondents	(n=2530)	(n=1065)	(n=1465)	(n=652)	(n=932)	(n=946)	(n=400)	(n=300)	(n=250)	(n=800)	(n=350)	(n=430)	(n=156)	(n=2374)	(n=83)	(n=2447)	(n=1606)	(n=924)	(n=1617)	(n=913)
Summary																				
Support	82%	84% _B	80%	77%	83% _C	85% _C	84%	81%	81%	81%	83%	83%	82%	82%	94% _{Z*}	82%	85% _b	77%	84% _d	80%
Oppose	18%	16%	20% _A	23% _{DE}	17%	15%	16%	19%	19%	19%	17%	17%	18%	18%	6% _*	18% _Y	15%	23% _a	16%	20% _c

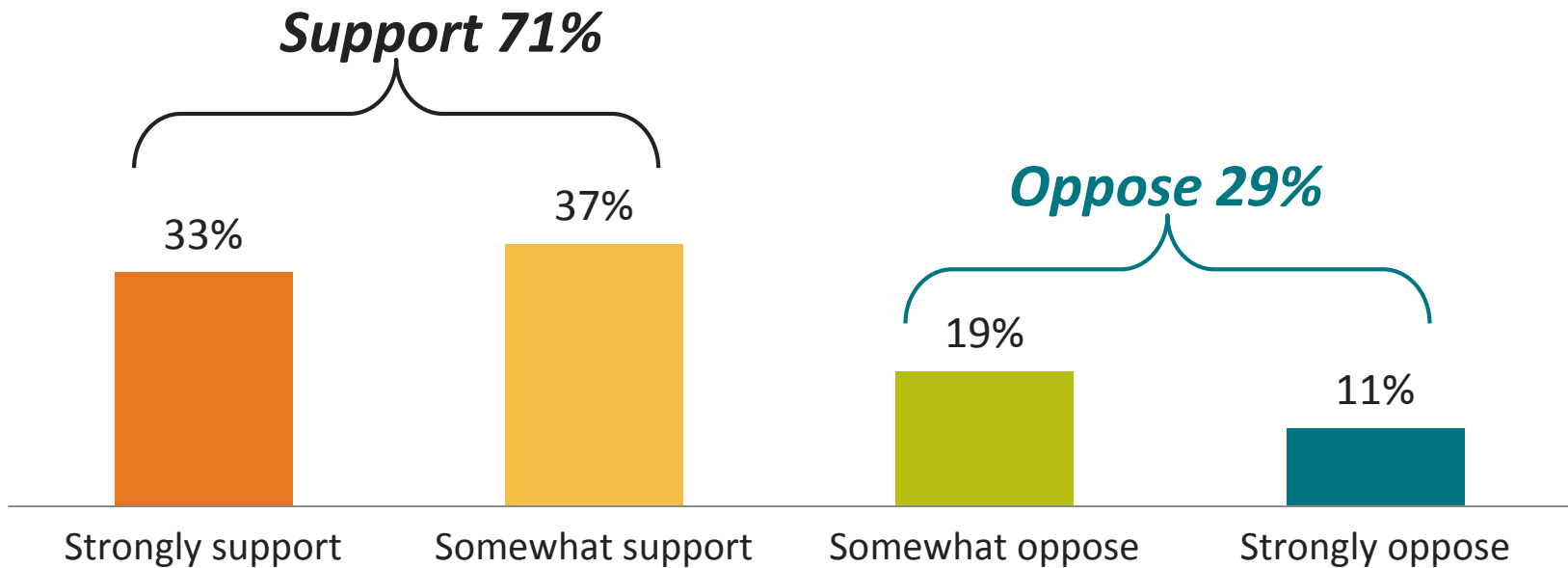
	Total	Likely Voter		Federal Vote						Religious Identity					Church attendance		
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Base: All Respondents	(n=2530)	(n=1549)	(n=981)	(n=515)	(n=1105)	(n=291)	(n=40)	(n=73)	(n=506)	(n=278)	(n=727)	(n=626)	(n=576)	(n=90)	(n=419)	(n=297)	(n=1814)
Summary																	
Support	82%	84% _J	79%	76%	84% _C	89% _{CH}	92% _{**}	86% _*	79%	92% _{PQU}	75%	82% _P	87% _{PU}	77%	60%	75% _V	87% _{VW}
Oppose	18%	16%	21% _I	24% _{DE}	16%	11%	8% _{**}	14% _*	21% _E	8%	25% _{KQT}	18% _K	13%	23% _{KT}	40% _{WX}	25% _X	13%

Assuming the patient meets all the other criteria for an assisted death and has otherwise been approved, would you support or oppose physician-assisted dying for patients who have a scheduled assisted death and who are competent at the time of the request but not competent at the time the assisted death is to be carried out? For example, a patient and her doctor agree on Friday to schedule an assisted death on the following Monday, but over the weekend the patient slips into a coma.

Base: All Respondents n=2530

SCENARIO 3: COMPETENT AT THE TIME OF THE REQUEST, EVEN IF THEY DO NOT HAVE A GRIEVOUS AND IRREDEMIABLE MEDICAL CONDITION Ipsos Public Affairs

- **Seven in ten (71%) Canadians would support physician-assisted dying for patients who are competent at the time of the request even if they do not have a grievous and irremediable medical condition. Three in ten (29%) are opposed to physician-assisted dying in this situation.**



Would you support physician-assisted dying for patients who are competent at the time of the request even if they do not have a grievous and irremediable medical condition? For example, a person may wish to write advance instructions specifying that they are to receive an assisted death if they have a stroke and are unable to move or communicate, even if they have not been diagnosed as at risk of having a stroke when they write their advance instructions.

Base: All Respondents n=2530

COMPETENT AT THE TIME OF THE REQUEST, EVEN IF THEY DO NOT HAVE A GRIEVOUS AND IRREMIEDIABLE MEDICAL CONDITION

- While regular worship attenders are split 50/50 on whether they support physician-assisted dying for patients in these circumstances, a majority of the rest of the demographic groups below support it.

	Total	Gender		AGE			REGION						Healthcare provider		Physically challenged		Exp or witnessed severe suffering		Exp or witnessed dementia	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	BC	AB	SK/MB	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
		(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)	(B)	(Y)	(Z)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Base: All Respondents	(n=2530)	(n=1065)	(n=1465)	(n=652)	(n=932)	(n=946)	(n=400)	(n=300)	(n=250)	(n=800)	(n=350)	(n=430)	(n=156)	(n=2374)	(n=83)	(n=2447)	(n=1606)	(n=924)	(n=1617)	(n=913)
Summary																				
Support	71%	73%	69%	67%	73% _c	72%	73%	69%	70%	70%	71%	74%	66%	71%	78% *	71%	74% _b	66%	73%	69%
Oppose	29%	27%	31%	33% _d	27%	28%	27%	31%	30%	30%	29%	26%	34%	29%	22% *	29%	26%	34% _a	27%	31%

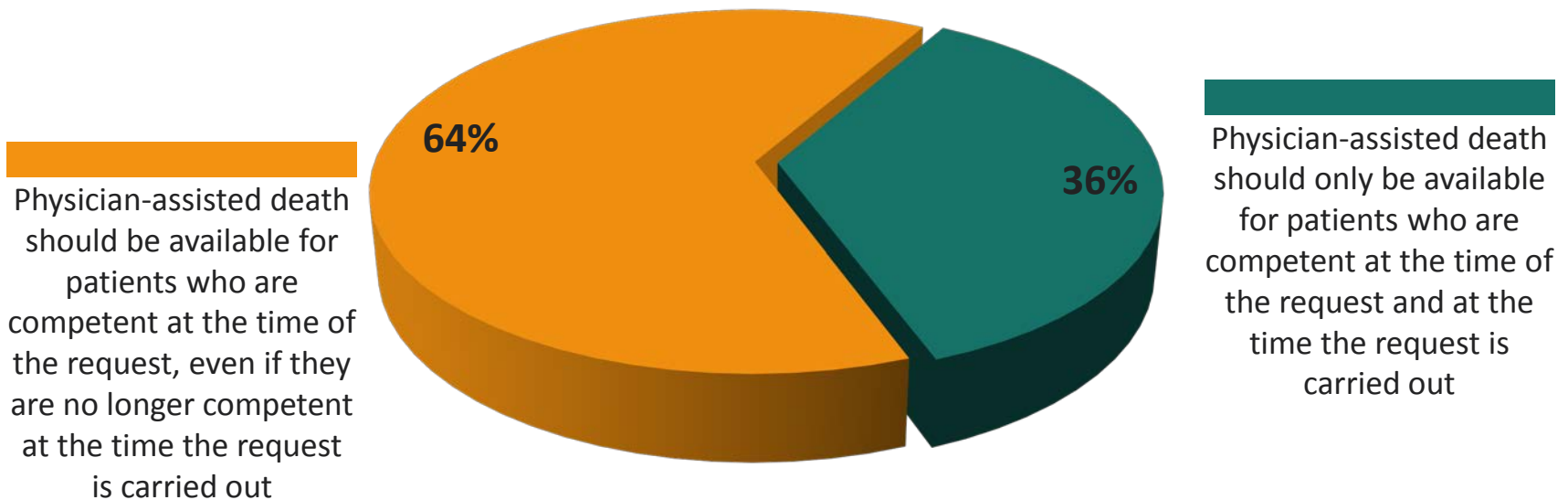
	Total	Likely Voter		Federal Vote						Religious Identity					Church attendance		
		Certain	Not Certain	Conservative Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party	Parti Quebecois	Other Party	I would not vote/don't know/undecided	Atheist / Agnostic / Humanist	Protestant or other Christian	Roman Catholic	No Religious Identity	Don't know/Refused	Regular	Occasional	Infrequent/Non
		(I)	(J)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(K)	(P)	(Q)	(T)	(U)	(V)	(W)	(X)
Base: All Respondents	(n=2530)	(n=1549)	(n=981)	(n=515)	(n=1105)	(n=291)	(n=40)	(n=73)	(n=506)	(n=278)	(n=727)	(n=626)	(n=576)	(n=90)	(n=419)	(n=297)	(n=1814)
Summary																	
Support	71%	73% _j	68%	64%	72% _c	78% _{ch}	81% _{**}	74% _*	70%	85% _{pqtu}	60%	71% _p	77% _{pqu}	64%	50%	64% _v	76% _{vw}
Oppose	29%	27%	32% _i	36% _{de}	28%	22%	19% _{**}	26% _*	30% _e	15%	40% _{kqt}	29% _{kt}	23% _k	36% _{kt}	50% _{wx}	36% _x	24%

Would you support physician-assisted dying for patients who are competent at the time of the request even if they do not have a grievous and irremediable medical condition? For example, a person may wish to write advance instructions specifying that they are to receive an assisted death if they have a stroke and are unable to move or communicate, even if they have not been diagnosed as at risk of having a stroke when they write their advance instructions.

Base: All Respondents n=2530

GENERAL PREFERENCE: MUST A PATIENT BE COMPETENT AT THE TIME THE DEATH IS CARRIED OUT?

- **Six in ten (64%) believe that physician-assisted death should be available for patients who are competent at the time of the request, even if they are no longer competent at the time the request is carried out. Four in ten (36%) believe it should only be available to patients both competent at the time of the request and at the time the request is carried out.**



When implemented, the Supreme Court's decision will allow physician-assisted dying for patients who are competent at the time of the request and at the time the request is carried out. It does not address physician-assisted dying for patients who are competent at the time of the request, but not at the time the request is to be carried out (i.e. in a coma or late-stage dementia). Which of the following is closest to your point of view?

Base: All Respondents n=2530

GENERAL PREFERENCE: MUST A PATIENT BE COMPETENT AT THE TIME THE DEATH IS CARRIED OUT?

- A majority of Canadians, regardless of gender, age, region or political affiliation, believe it is not necessary for a patient to be competent at the time the request is to be carried out. A majority (57%) of healthcare providers also side with this position.

	Total	Gender		AGE			REGION						Healthcare provider		Physically challenged		Exp or witnessed severe suffering		Exp or witnessed dementia	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	BC	AB	SK/MB	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
		(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(A)	(B)	(Y)	(Z)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
<i>Base: All Respondents</i>	(n=2530)	(n=1065)	(n=1465)	(n=652)	(n=932)	(n=946)	(n=400)	(n=300)	(n=250)	(n=800)	(n=350)	(n=430)	(n=156)	(n=2374)	(n=83)	(n=2447)	(n=1606)	(n=924)	(n=1617)	(n=913)
Summary																				
Physician-assisted death should only be available for patients who are competent at the time of the request and at the time the request is carried out	36%	36%	36%	45% DE	33%	32%	37%	32%	37%	36%	37%	31%	43%	35%	40%*	36%	34%	40% _a	31%	42% _c
Physician-assisted death should be available for patients who are competent at the time of the request, even if they are no longer competent at the time the request is carried out	64%	64%	64%	55%	67% _c	68% _c	63%	68%	63%	64%	63%	69%	57%	65%	60%*	64%	66% _b	60%	69% _d	58%

When implemented, the Supreme Court's decision will allow physician-assisted dying for patients who are competent at the time of the request and at the time the request is carried out. It does not address physician-assisted dying for patients who are competent at the time of the request, but not at the time the request is to be carried out (i.e. in a coma or late-stage dementia). Which of the following is closest to your point of view?

Base: All Respondents n=2530

GENERAL PREFERENCE: MUST A PATIENT BY COMPETENT AT THE TIME THE DEATH IS CARRIED OUT?

- A majority of Canadians, regardless of gender, age, region or political affiliation, believe it is not necessary for a patient to be competent at the time the request is to be carried out. A majority (57%) of healthcare providers also side with this position.

	Total	Likely Voter		Federal Vote						Religious Identity					Church attendance		
		Certain	Not Certain	Conservative Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party	Parti Quebecois	Other Party	I would not vote/don't know/undecided	Atheist / Agnostic / Humanist	Protestant or other Christian	Roman Catholic	No Religious Identity	Don't know/Refused	Regular	Occasional	Infrequent/Non
		(I)	(J)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(K)	(P)	(Q)	(T)	(U)	(V)	(W)	(X)
<i>Base: All Respondents</i>	(n=2530)	(n=1549)	(n=981)	(n=515)	(n=1105)	(n=291)	(n=40)	(n=73)	(n=506)	(n=278)	(n=727)	(n=626)	(n=576)	(n=90)	(n=419)	(n=297)	(n=1814)
Summary																	
Physician-assisted death should only be available for patients who are competent at the time of the request and at the time the request is carried out	36%	32%	41% _I	39%	37%	35%	19%**	25%*	35%	24%	39% _{KT}	38% _{KT}	31%	40% _K	53% _{WX}	43% _X	31%
Physician-assisted death should be available for patients who are competent at the time of the request, even if they are no longer competent at the time the request is carried out	64%	68% _J	59%	61%	63%	65%	81%**	75%*	65%	76% _{PQU}	61%	62%	69% _{PQ}	60%	47%	57% _V	69% _{VW}

When implemented, the Supreme Court's decision will allow physician-assisted dying for patients who are competent at the time of the request and at the time the request is carried out. It does not address physician-assisted dying for patients who are competent at the time of the request, but not at the time the request is to be carried out (i.e. in a coma or late-stage dementia). Which of the following is closest to your point of view?

Base: All Respondents n=2530

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About Dying With Dignity Canada

Dying With Dignity Canada is the national organization committed to improving quality of dying, expanding end-of-life choices and helping Canadians avoid unwanted suffering.