

YouGov Survey Results

Results for VES

Sample Size: 2072

Fieldwork: 26th to 29th November 2004

	Are you?		Age			Social Grade		Region						Whether have disablement	
	Total	Male	Female	18 to 29	30 to 50	Over 50	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands and Wales	North	Scotland	Yes	No
Weighted base	2091	1002	1089	430	809	852	1121	970	263	594	530	514	191	518	1572
Unweighted base	2072	1077	995	352	749	971	1194	878	376	465	485	549	197	495	1577
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

The current law allows people to end their lives by committing suicide, but it is an offence to assist anybody who wishes to commit suicide. This means that it is legal for a physically able terminally ill patient to choose when to end his/her life by committing suicide, but it is not legal for a disabled terminally ill patient who is not physically able to commit suicide on their own to receive assistance from somebody else in order to carry out their wishes.

In your view, does the law discriminate against disabled terminally ill patients who wish to choose when to end their lives by committing suicide but are unable to do so without someone else's assistance?

Yes, the law discriminates against disabled terminally ill patients	77	75	78	72	77	78	77	76	74	80	79	74	73	82	75
No, the law does not discriminate against terminally ill patients	13	16	11	13	13	14	15	11	14	14	11	15	14	12	14
Don't know	10	9	10	15	10	8	8	13	13	6	10	11	13	6	11

There is currently a Bill being considered by the House of Lords titled the Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill. If this Bill became law, terminally ill adults (this means someone with a few months or less to live e.g. Cancer or Motor Neurone Disease) who were suffering unbearably, would be allowed to ask for and receive medication from their doctor to end their life at a time of their choosing, providing they meet a range of safeguards. If they were physically unable to self-administer the medication, their doctor would be allowed to assist them. These safeguards include ensuring that:

- a) The patient is over 18 years of age
- b) The patient is mentally competent (of sound mind)
- c) The patient has a terminal illness
- d) The patient makes two oral requests to their doctor and one written request to die, all of which must be voluntary
- e) There is a 14 day waiting period for the patient to consider his or her decision
- f) There is a second opinion from another doctor
- g) If there are concerns about a patient's competency, they are referred to a psychiatrist for an assessment
- h) There are two independent witnesses to the written request
- i) The patient is fully informed of all alternatives including a consultation with a palliative care expert

Do you support or oppose this Bill?

Support	80	80	79	72	83	80	81	78	77	82	80	77	80	80	79
Oppose	10	12	9	10	8	12	11	8	9	9	12	10	8	12	10
Don't know	10	8	12	18	9	8	8	13	14	9	7	13	12	8	11

If this Bill were to become law, would you trust your doctor more, less or the same amount?

Yes, I would trust them more	6	6	6	3	6	7	5	8	5	7	4	7	8	8	5
Yes, I would trust them the same amount	77	77	77	71	79	78	81	72	79	77	78	76	76	76	77
No, I would trust them less	9	10	8	10	6	11	9	8	6	8	10	10	10	12	8
Don't know	8	7	9	15	9	4	5	12	9	8	9	8	5	5	9

If this Bill were to become law, do you think it would have a positive or a negative impact on society's views of disabled people, or no real impact at all?

Positive impact	23	25	21	18	21	27	21	25	20	21	25	23	30	29	21
Negative impact	13	14	12	11	13	14	13	13	13	11	15	15	11	13	13
No real impact at all	51	52	51	51	54	49	56	46	55	54	46	51	52	47	53
Don't know	13	9	16	20	12	9	10	16	12	15	13	11	8	11	13

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

If this Bill became law and you had a terminal illness, would you like this option to be available for yourself, even if you chose not to make use of it?

Yes	78	79	78	70	81	80	78	79	76	82	77	76	81	79	78
No	10	10	9	9	7	12	13	6	9	9	11	10	8	11	9
Don't know	12	11	13	20	13	8	10	15	14	9	13	14	12	10	13

Do you currently have or have had a mental or physical impairment, which has had an adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities? [Please tick all that apply]

A mobility impairment	12	10	14	3	8	21	12	12	7	12	12	15	11	49	0
Manual dexterity problems	4	3	5	1	3	6	4	4	2	6	3	3	4	15	0
Physical co-ordination impairment	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	0	3	1	3	6	0
Continence problems	3	2	3	0	2	4	3	2	2	3	3	1	2	10	0
An impairment which affects your ability to lift, carry or move ever	11	9	12	2	7	18	9	12	7	10	10	11	16	43	0
A speech, hearing or eyesight (which can't be resolved by wearing corrective glasses or contact lenses) impairment	4	5	3	2	3	6	4	4	2	5	5	4	4	17	0
An impairment which affects my memory or ability to concentrate, learn or understand	3	2	4	1	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	2	3	12	0
An impairment which affects my understanding of the risk of physical	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	2	0
Other	4	5	4	6	5	4	4	5	6	4	4	5	3	18	0
No – I have no mental or physical impairments of this kind and never have had	73	74	71	85	77	63	75	71	81	70	71	74	73	0	97
Prefer not to say	2	1	3	3	2	2	1	4	1	3	3	1	1	0	3