



**Voters (Statewide, SD 13, SD 31, HD 114) + Disabled Community
Connecticut Survey
February 2014**

METHODOLOGY

Purple Insights conducted 600 interviews by phone in Connecticut among likely 2014 voters, with an oversample of 100 voters each in SD 13, SD 31, and HD 114. Eighty percent (80%) of the interviews done by phone were completed on landlines and 20% on cell phones. In addition, an oversample of 100 disabled adults were done through online interviews. All interviews were fielded between February 1st and February 7th, 2014. The margin of error for statewide voters is +/- 4.0%.

SCREENER

1. Which, if any, of the following conditions apply to you?

	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
I have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs	5	6	7	1	32
I have a disability	4	1	4	2	42
I currently suffer from a chronic disease or serious, advanced or terminal illness	3	5	9	2	35
I am deaf or have serious difficulty hearing	2	1	2	2	12
I am blind or have serious difficulty seeing even when wearing glasses	1	1	1	2	6
Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, I have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions	1	1	2	0	16
Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, I have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping	1	1	4	1	18
I have difficulty dressing or bathing	0	1	1	0	4
None of the above	89	91	86	92	0

VIEWS TOWARD AID IN DYING

2. In general, do you support or oppose allowing a mentally competent adult, who is dying of a terminal disease with no hope of recovery, the choice to bring about their own death?

	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
Strongly support	51	52	51	59	56
Not so strongly support	14	20	14	16	11
Not so strongly oppose	8	9	6	7	6
Strongly oppose	13	10	13	7	10
DK/ref	13	9	16	11	17
NET SUPPORT	65	72	65	75	67
NET OPPOSE	22	20	19	14	16

3. Now I'm going to read a proposal that may be up for consideration in your state. Should mentally competent, terminally ill patients with less than six months to live be able to end their life in a humane and dignified manner, using prescription medications they can self-administer? This would be entirely voluntary on the part of all participants, including the patient, physician, and any other health care provider. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
Strongly support	50	53	55	51	56
Not so strongly support	16	11	13	17	9
Not so strongly oppose	9	11	11	5	7
Strongly oppose	18	19	16	20	14
DK/ref	7	6	6	7	13
NET SUPPORT	66	64	67	68	65
NET OPPOSE	27	30	27	25	22

4. Which comes closest to your own view about how you would feel if you were a terminally ill patient?

	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
I would want a legal option to end my own life	69	70	61	70	61
I would not want a legal option to end my own life	25	23	30	21	23
I'm not sure about this	6	7	9	9	16

5. Which of the following comes closest to your own view?					
	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
Government shouldn't meddle in the private, personal decisions terminally ill people make about whether or not to end their own lives	79	83	81	77	74
Government should protect the terminally ill from ending their lives hastily or against their will	14	12	12	13	12
Neither	3	2	1	4	6
I'm not sure about this	5	3	6	6	8

6. Which of the following comes closest to your own view about how to legalize the ability of mentally competent, terminally ill patients to end their own lives?					
	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
The medical community and patients' advocates, not the government, should set their own standards about how and when to help patients end their own lives	67	63	67	70	59
State governments should regulate end of life decisions, in order to prevent abuses	19	19	19	17	18
Neither	7	11	3	3	9
I'm not sure about this	7	7	10	10	13

MESSAGING

7. Now I'm going to read you some things that might be reasons to SUPPORT allowing terminally ill patients to take their own lives. After each, please tell me whether you find it very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing, or not at all convincing.

<i>Showing Very Convincing</i>	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
The decision of a terminally ill patient to receive medication to bring about their own death should be a private decision between the patient, their family, their faith, and their own doctor.	66	60	73	70	71
Terminally ill patients who thoughtfully consider their options should have the right to die peacefully and on their own terms.	64	52	70	69	66
Advances in science and technology have created many medical interventions that can prolong life for people with terminal diseases for years. But those years may be full of pain, suffering, lengthy hospital stays, and increased dependency on one's family. People shouldn't be forced to artificially prolong their lives if they don't want to.	60	57	63	72	62
We should give terminally ill patients our respect by allowing them to exert control over their end of life decisions, including when and how they die.	56	56	65	57	64

8. Now I'm going to read you some things that might be reasons to OPPOSE allowing terminally ill patients to take their own lives. After each, please tell me whether you find it very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing, or not at all convincing. If you're not sure, just say so & we'll move on.

Showing Very Convincing	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
Patients at the end of their lives are at their most vulnerable. They need extra protection from unscrupulous or rushed doctors or family who might put convenience ahead of human life.	28	29	30	27	33
Only God should decide when people die, and allowing people to take their own life goes against God's plan.	22	21	27	23	28
Doctors take an oath to help people, and the original oath specifically prohibits the giving of deadly drugs. Legalizing doctor-assisted suicide would force doctors to break their oath to do no harm.	21	20	19	26	25
Allowing doctor-assisted suicide will lead to a slippery slope, where the disabled or the mentally ill will be encouraged to take their own lives.	21	20	19	23	26

DEMOGRAPHICS

9. What is your gender?

	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
Female	52	53	53	53	62
Male	48	47	47	47	38

10. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
Democrat, strongly	22	19	19	27	24
Democrat, not strongly	10	10	8	9	12
Independent, lean Democrat	10	10	10	12	12
Independent	22	28	22	18	23
Independent, lean Republican	8	15	13	8	8
Republican, not strongly	8	7	6	6	4
Republican, strongly	15	8	18	16	11
Don't Know/Refused	5	4	4	3	6

11. What is your age?					
	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
18-29	6	6	6	9	11
30-39	10	14	12	8	14
40-49	19	15	18	13	15
50-59	24	25	25	23	16
60-69	23	19	17	20	27
70-79	10	11	15	11	6
80+	7	9	6	13	11
Refusal/DK	1	1	0	2	1

12. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?					
	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
Less than high school	1	0	4	0	2
High school graduate	9	10	13	10	16
Some college	17	21	22	12	29
Trade or professional school	7	7	10	7	11
College graduate	35	35	33	32	22
Post-graduate work or degree	31	27	17	38	18
Don't Know/Refused	0	0	0	1	2

13. Are you black, white, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American?					
	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
White	86	85	89	90	84
Black	3	1	3	3	3
Native American	2	0	2	0	2
Hispanic	2	3	1	1	5
Asian	1	1	0	2	2
Other	1	3	2	1	2
Don't Know /Refused	4	7	2	3	2

14. What is your marital status?					
	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
Single	15	17	17	18	25
Married or domestic partnership	71	64	69	69	50
Widowed	7	10	7	7	7
Divorced	6	8	7	5	15
Separated	0	1	0	0	2
Don't know/Refused	1	0	0	0	1

15. What is your present religion, if any?					
	Voters				Disabled
	Statewide	SD 13	SD 31	HD 114	
Catholic	39	53	50	46	42
Protestant	21	15	17	10	16
Other Christian	12	10	16	15	12
Jewish	4	1	1	8	5
Muslim	0	0	0	0	0
Agnostic	6	4	1	3	6
None/Atheist	13	10	12	10	11
Something else	2	3	0	8	3
Not sure/refused	4	5	2	1	6