New England area survey
Toplines (MA: n=700, CT: n=600, VT: n=600)
May 17, 2012

Hello. Can I talk to _____ [INSERT NAME FROM LIST.]? [IF PERSON IS NOT HOME, SCHEDULE CALLBACK. DO NOT COMPLETE INTERVIEW WITH ANYONE ELSE AT HOME UNLESS THEY ARE ON THE LIST.]
My name is _____. I'm calling to conduct a public opinion survey and I would like to ask you some questions about issues affecting your family and community. I am not selling anything, and at no time will I ask you for a contribution or a donation. You will not be added to any mailing list as a result of your participation. CODE, BUT DO NOT ASK:

	MA	CT	VT
Male	49	47	47
Female	51	53	53

1. How likely would you say you are to vote in the November 2012 election for President, Congress, and other offices? Would you say you are almost certain, very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or are you definitely not going to vote in those elections?

	MA	CT	VT
Almost certain	75	72	77
Very likely	25	28	23
Somewhat likely	**TERMINATE**		
Not too likely	**TERMINATE**		
Definitely not	**TERMINATE**		
DK	**TERMINATE**		

I want to ask you a few questions having to do with issues affecting people who are dying of a terminal disease or illness.

SPLIT SAMPLE A

2. In general, do you favor 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? [IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK:] Do you favor/oppose that strongly or not so strongly?

	MA	CT	VT
Strongly favor	55	51	62
Not so strongly favor	16	16	10
Not so strongly oppose	2	11	2
Strongly oppose	12	14	15
DK/ref	14	8	10
NET FAVOR	**71**	**67**	**73**
NET OPPOSE	**15**	**25**	**17**

SPLIT SAMPLE B

3. In general, do you favor or oppose allowing a mentally competent adult, who is dying of a terminal disease with no hope of recovery, the liberty to bring about their own death? [IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK:] Do you favor/oppose that strongly or not so strongly?

	MA	CT	VT
Strongly favor	57	50	64
Not so strongly favor	12	17	11
Not so strongly oppose	5	8	4
Strongly oppose	17	14	13
DK/ref	9	11	8
NET FAVOR	**69**	**68**	**76**
NET OPPOSE	**22**	**22**	**17**

ROTATE Q4 & Q5

4. Now I'm going to read (a/another) 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 vote favor or oppose this proposal, or aren't you sure? [IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK:] Do you favor/oppose that strongly or not so strongly?

	MA	CT	VT
Strongly favor	49	48	58
Not so strongly favor	12	9	13
Not so strongly oppose	2	5	2
Strongly oppose	17	18	14
DK/ref	20	20	14
NET FAVOR	**61**	**57**	**70**
NET OPPOSE	**19**	**23**	**15**

5. Now I'm going to read you (a/another) proposal that may be up for consideration in your state. Should doctors who give prescriptions to mentally competent, terminally ill patients to help them end their own lives voluntarily be given immunity from prosecution? Do you vote favor or oppose this proposal, or aren't you sure? [IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK:] Do you favor/oppose that strongly or not so strongly?

	MA	CT	VT
Strongly favor	46	47	54
Not so strongly favor	9	10	8
Not so strongly oppose	3	5	2
Strongly oppose	15	19	14
DK/ref	27	19	23
NET FAVOR	**55**	**57**	**61**
NET OPPOSE	**18**	**24**	**16**

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

ROTATE FIRST TWO	**MA**	**CT**	**VT**
I would want a legal option to end my own life	62	60	71
I would not want a legal option to end my own life	19	18	16
I'm not sure about this	20	22	13

7. In your view, should it be legal for a terminally ill adult to request and receive a prescription for life-ending medication from a physician…

READ 1-3 OR 3-1	**MA**	**CT**	**VT**
Under <u>any</u> circumstance	19	19	23
Only for patients with just a few months to live, of sound mind, and who can make decisions for themselves	48	49	51
Under <u>no</u> circumstances	21	22	16
DK/ref	12	10	11

8. 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?

ROTATE FIRST TWO	**MA**	**CT**	**VT**
State governments should regulate end of life decisions, in order to prevent abuses	19	17	17
The medical community, and not the government, should set its own standards about how and when to help patients end their own lives	42	50	45
Neither [vol]	8	6	12
I'm not sure about this	31	27	27

9. Which of the following comes closest to your own view?

ROTATE FIRST TWO	**MA**	**CT**	**VT**
Government shouldn't meddle in the private, personal decisions terminally ill people make about whether or not to end their own lives	58	54	59
Government should protect the terminally ill from ending their lives hastily or against their will	15	25	15
Neither [vol]	5	4	6
I'm not sure about this	22	16	21

ROTATE BATTERIES 1,2
BATTERY 1

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. If you're not sure, just say so & we'll move on.

SHUFFLE	Very conv	smwt conv	not too conv	not at conv	DK
SPLIT SAMPLE A					
10. 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					
Massachusetts	64	24	3	7	3
Connecticut	65	18	3	11	4
Vermont	63	23	5	8	2
SPLIT SAMPLE B					
11. The decision of a terminally ill patient to receive medication to bring about their own death should be a personal decision between the patient, their family, their faith, and their own doctor					
Massachusetts	58	23	5	10	3
Connecticut	59	21	6	11	4
Vermont	71	17	3	7	3
SPLIT SAMPLE A					
12. Terminally ill patients who thoughtfully consider their options should be allowed to take personal responsibility and die peacefully and on their own terms					
Massachusetts	61	25	4	6	4
Connecticut	62	20	6	7	5
Vermont	68	16	6	6	4
SPLIT SAMPLE B					
13. Terminally ill patients who thoughtfully consider their options should have the right to die peacefully and on their own terms					
Massachusetts	67	20	4	8	2
Connecticut	65	17	6	10	2
Vermont	70	15	4	9	2
14. No terminally ill patient would have their life taken against their will. Patients' decisions would be voluntary, and they would self-administer all medication. Doctors would also establish proper guidelines and safeguards to prevent any potential abuse					
Massachusetts	47	29	6	12	6
Connecticut	49	28	5	14	4
Vermont	53	24	8	11	4

15. Some terminally ill patients may decide to end their life before they rack up astronomical health care bills that could bankrupt their families. This decision should be up to patients and their families to decide together for themselves

Massachusetts	44	28	9	14	5
Connecticut	44	26	7	17	6
Vermont	43	27	11	14	5

16. 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

Massachusetts	54	26	6	10	5
Connecticut	55	23	4	14	4
Vermont	63	17	5	10	6

17. It's already legal for terminally ill patients to have feeding tubes removed, or other treatments stopped. And millions of people have advanced directives which say what kind of treatment they would want. By allowing terminally ill patients to take their own lives, we are simply extending a right people already have

Massachusetts	35	33	9	12	11
Connecticut	41	33	7	11	9
Vermont	47	29	10	9	6

SPLIT SAMPLE A

18. The government simply shouldn't be involved in patients' personal medical decisions and treatment. The medical community should decide the best way to help terminally ill patients voluntarily end their own lives

Massachusetts	42	23	11	16	7
Connecticut	45	27	7	15	6
Vermont	40	30	10	12	8

SPLIT SAMPLE B

19. The government simply shouldn't be involved in patients' personal medical decisions and treatment

Massachusetts	55	16	8	15	6
Connecticut	52	23	8	14	3
Vermont	51	21	10	10	9

SPLIT SAMPLE A

20. 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

Massachusetts	63	17	8	8	4
Connecticut	60	18	8	11	4
Vermont	57	26	6	8	3

SPLIT SAMPLE B

21. We should give terminally ill patients the dignity of being able to exert control over their end of life decisions, including when and how they die

Massachusetts	55	25	5	10	5
Connecticut	55	22	6	14	3
Vermont	65	18	5	10	1

22. Only God should decide when people die, and artificially keeping terminally ill patients alive goes against God's plan

Massachusetts	21	17	13	41	9
Connecticut	21	18	12	42	8
Vermont	16	9	14	48	13

BATTERY 2

Now I'm going to read you some things that might be reasons to <u>oppose</u> 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.

SHUFFLE	**Very conv**	**smwt conv**	**not too conv**	**not at conv**	**DK**
23. Doctor-assisted suicide is morally wrong and should not be sanctioned by the government					
Massachusetts	22	14	17	41	6
Connecticut	22	12	14	44	8
Vermont	18	9	14	52	7
24. Patients may get depressed and take their own life before they have fully given medical treatment a chance					
Massachusetts	21	40	13	20	6
Connecticut	23	34	10	25	8
Vermont	19	36	17	21	8
25. Only God should decide when people die, and allowing people to take their own life goes against God's plan					
Massachusetts	25	14	11	44	6
Connecticut	25	13	9	48	5
Vermont	16	11	11	54	8
26. Patients at the end of their life are at their most vulnerable. They need extra protection from unscrupulous or rushed doctors or family who might put convenience ahead of human life					
Massachusetts	28	34	11	21	7
Connecticut	30	34	8	24	5
Vermont	29	29	15	22	5

27. This would be subject to tragic abuse. Health care providers and government agencies could hasten the death of terminally ill patients in order to save on the cost of care

Massachusetts	14	27	15	33	10
Connecticut	17	24	13	37	9
Vermont	15	23	18	37	7

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

Massachusetts	25	20	16	31	8
Connecticut	26	23	14	31	7
Vermont	18	20	20	34	9

Thank you. The remaining questions are demographic questions for classification purposes only. Remember, we will not sell your information to anyone.

29. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an independent, or something else? **[IF REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT, ASK:]** Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not so strong (Republican/Democrat)? **[IF INDEPENDENT, ASK:]** Would you say you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats?

	MA	**CT**	**VT**
Strong Republican	10	15	8
Not so strong Republican	5	8	8
Independent, lean Republican	13	10	8
Independent	12	11	11
Independent, lean Democrat	22	11	20
Not so strong Democrat	8	10	10
Strong Democrat	18	26	22
DK/other	11	9	13
NET REPUBLICAN	**28**	**33**	**24**
NET DEMOCRAT	**49**	**47**	**52**

30. How old are you? **[CODE FROM FILE]**

	MA	**CT**	**VT**
<30	16	16	15
30-44	28	26	26
45-64	40	44	43
65+	16	14	17

31. What is the highest level of education you have had the opportunity to complete?

	MA	CT	VT
Less than HS	2	1	2
HS graduate	19	15	18
Some college/vocational/2-year college	23	26	23
College graduate	31	31	31
Post graduate	22	25	25
DK/ref	3	3	2

32. Do you consider yourself White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American or something else?

	MA	CT	VT
White	83	80	92
Black	5	6	0
Hispanic	2	3	0
Asian	2	1	1
Native American	0	1	1
Multi-racial **[vol]**	1	0	2
Other **["please specify: ___"]**	1	1	0
DK/ref	6	8	4

33. Are you now or have you ever provided care to an aging parent, either by taking them into your home or arranging or paying for their long-term care?

	MA	CT	VT
Yes, currently	14	11	9
Yes, in the past	29	28	29
No	54	56	60
DK/ref	3	5	2

34. Have you had a personal experience with a close friend or loved one who died from a terminal disease such as cancer and suffered severe pain or loss of dignity at the end of their life?

	MA	CT	VT
Yes	63	64	70
No	33	30	28
DK/ref	4	6	2

35. What religion are you?

	MA	CT	VT
Protestant	18	18	19
Catholic	37	38	19
Other Christian	7	9	13
Jewish	5	3	2
Muslim	0	0	0
Agnostic	12	7	9
None/Atheist	10	11	22
Something else [vol; "please specify: ___"]	2	4	8
DK/ref	8	10	8

36. How often do you attend religious services? Would you say you attend services…?

	MA	CT	VT
More than once a week	7	7	6
Once a week	20	23	15
A few times a month	9	11	6
Several times a year	10	11	11
Only on major holidays	9	8	6
Hardly ever	25	18	27
Never	12	15	25
DK/ref	8	7	4

Thank you for your cooperation. That completes our survey!