

Polling on Voter Support for Medical Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Adults

National Polling

Gallup Poll Social Survey, May 2020¹

- Nearly three out of U.S. residents (74%) agree that: "When a person has a disease that cannot be cured...doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his or her family request it."
- Majority support included every demographic group measured in the survey, including:
 - ◆ Men: 75%
 - ◆ Women: 73%
 - ◆ Whites: 77%
 - ◆ People of Color: 65%
 - ◆ Age 18-34: 77%
 - ◆ Age 35-54: 79%
 - ◆ Age 55+: 68%
 - ◆ College Graduates: 79%
 - ◆ Some College Education: 70%
 - ◆ High School Graduates or Less Education: 71%
 - ◆ Republicans: 69%
 - ◆ Independents: 72%
 - ◆ Democrats: 85%
 - ◆ Conservatives: 57%
 - ◆ Moderates: 80%
 - ◆ Liberals: 87%

¹ Public Release Data. Available from: <https://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/GALLUP-POLL-TOPLINE-2020.pdf>

Gallup Poll Social Survey, May 2019

- Nearly seven out of 10 U.S. residents (68%) agree that: "When a person has a disease that cannot be cured...doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his or her family request it."

²Medscape Poll, December 2018³

- Nearly six out of 10 doctors (58%) of 5,200 physicians across 29 specialties say that "'physician-assisted suicide' or 'physician-assisted dying' should be made legal for terminally ill patients."
- Advocates use the term "medical aid in dying" to describe this practice, which allows terminally ill people to request a doctor's prescription for medication they can voluntarily decide to self-ingest to die in their sleep if suffering becomes intolerable.
- In contrast, "physician-assisted suicide" is a pejorative and technically inaccurate term that, along with

² Public Release Data. Available from: <https://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/GALLUP-POLL-TOPLINE-2020.pdf>

³ 2018 Ethics Report on Life and Death, December 2018. Available from: <https://www.medscape.com/slideshow/2018-ethics-report-life-death-6011014#2>

“physician-assisted dying,” implies doctors do more than write a prescription, so it could have lowered the support level among the doctors surveyed.

Gallup Annual Values and Beliefs Survey, May, 2018⁴

The American public consistently supports medical aid in dying by large majorities in both independent national and state surveys. Polling outlets such as Gallup and Harris both report strong support for medical aid in dying. Similarly, state-by-state polling also indicates majority support across demographic groups.

- Nearly three quarters (72%) agree that doctors should be able to help terminally ill patients die.
- Majority support included nearly every demographic group surveyed, including men (79%), women (65%), Republicans (62%), Democrats (80%), Independents (73%), conservatives (54%), moderates (79%), liberals (89%), those who attend church nearly weekly/monthly (69%), and who attend church seldom/never (86%).

⁴ Brenan, Megan, American’s Strong Support for Euthanasia Persists, May 2018. Available from: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/235145/americans-strong-support-euthanasia-persists.aspx>

Gallup Poll Social Series, May 1-10, 2018⁵

- Nearly three out of four Americans (72%) of U.S. adults agreed that “When a person has a disease that cannot be cured...doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his or her family request it.”
- Support for ‘right-to-die’ laws remains high in Gallup's 2018 update, with majorities of Americans across most demographic groups supporting...”

Gallup Poll Social Series, May 3-7, 2017⁶

- Nearly three out of four Americans (73%) of U.S. adults agreed that “When a person has a disease that cannot be cured...doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his or her family request it.”
- Majority support included every demographic group surveyed:
 - ◆ Attend church weekly (55%)
 - ◆ Attend church nearly weekly/monthly (66%)
 - ◆ Attend church seldom/never (87%)
 - ◆ Conservatives (60%)
 - ◆ Moderates (79%)
 - ◆ Liberals (89%)

⁵ Americans' Strong Support for Euthanasia Persists, May 2018. Available from: [https://news.gallup.com/poll/235145/americans-strong-support-euthanasia-persists.aspx?g_source=link_NEWSV9&g_medium=NEWSFEED&g_campaign=item_&g_content=Americans'](https://news.gallup.com/poll/235145/americans-strong-support-euthanasia-persists.aspx?g_source=link_NEWSV9&g_medium=NEWSFEED&g_campaign=item_&g_content=Americans)

⁶ Majority of Americans Remain Supportive of Euthanasia. June, 2017. Available from: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/211928/majority-americans-remain-supportive-euthanasia.aspx>

- ◆ Republicans/Republican-leaning independents (67%)
- ◆ Democrats/Democratic-leaning independents (81%)

Medscape Poll, January 2017⁷

- An online survey of almost 300 physicians found that 58% of doctors practicing in states without medical aid-in-dying laws said they had “been in a situation where they wished the patient could have taken advantage of such a practice.”

Medscape online survey, September 19-October 18, 2016⁸

- This online survey of more than 7,500 physicians from more than 25 specialties demonstrated a significant increase in support for medical aid in dying from 2010. Today well over half (57%) of the physicians surveyed endorse the idea of medical aid in dying, agreeing that “Physician assisted death should be allowed for terminally ill patients.”

⁷ Physician-Assisted Death: Where Do You Stand? June 12, 2017. Available from: <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/874341>

⁸ Medscape Ethics Report 2016: Life, Death, and Pain, December 23, 2016. Available from: <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/Medscape-Ethics-Report-Dec-23-2016.pdf>

LifeWay Research online survey, Sept. 27-Oct. 1, 2016⁹

- Two thirds of Americans (67%) agree that: “When a person is facing a painful terminal disease, it is morally acceptable to ask for a physician’s aid in taking his or her own life.”
- Majority support included most faith groups, including Christians (59%), Catholics (70%), Protestants (53%), Nones (84%) and those of other religions (70%) and attend religious services less than once a month (76 percent).
- Majority support included Americans with some college education (71%) or with graduate degrees (73%) and with high school diplomas or less (61%), Americans age 18 to 24 (77%), 35 to 44 (63%) and 55 to 64 (64%), White Americans (71%) and Hispanic Americans (69%), In addition, more than half of Black, Non-Hispanics (53%) agreed that: “Physicians should be allowed to assist terminally ill patients in ending their life.”

Gallup’s Poll Social Series: Values and Beliefs, May 2016¹⁰

- Nearly seven out of 10 Americans (69%) said they agreed that: “When a person

⁹ American Views on Assisted Suicide, Lifeway Research, September, 2016. Available from: <http://lifewayresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Sept-2016-American-Views-Assisted-Suicide.pdf>

¹⁰ Swift, a. Euthanasia Still Acceptable to Solid Majority in U.S. Gallup, May 2016. Available from: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/193082/euthanasia-acceptable-solid-majority.aspx>

has a disease that cannot be cured...doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his or her family request it."

- Gallup concluded: "Bottom Line...California, often a bellwether for change throughout the U.S., may persuade other states to consider passing legislation permitting physicians to allow terminally ill people to end their lives."

Gallup's Values and Beliefs Survey, May 2015¹¹

- Nearly seven in 10 Americans (68%) agreed that "Individuals who are terminally ill, in great pain and who have no chance for recovery have the right to choose to end their own life."
- Gallup noted that support "has risen nearly 20 points in the last two years and stands at the highest level in more than a decade," and support among young adults aged 18 to 34 "climbed 19 points this year, to 81%."

Medscape Poll, September - November 2014¹²

¹¹ Dugan, A. In U.S., Support Up for Doctor-Assisted Suicide. Gallup. May 2015. Available from: http://www.gallup.com/poll/183425/support-doctor-assisted-suicide.aspx?utm_source=Politics&utm_medium=newsfeed&utm_campaign=tiles

¹² Kane, L. Medscape Ethics Report 2014, Part 1: Life, Death, and Pain. Medscape Ethics Center. December 2014. Available from: <https://www.medscape.com/features/slideshow/public/ethics2014-part1>

- This online survey of 17,000 U.S. doctors representing 28 medical specialties demonstrated that physicians agreed by a 23-percent margin (54% vs. 31%) that: "I believe terminal illnesses such as metastatic cancers or degenerative neurological diseases rob a human of his/her dignity. Provided there is no shred of doubt that the disease is incurable and terminal, I would support a patient's decision to end their life, and I would also wish the same option was available in my case should the need arise."
- The previous Medscape survey on this issue in 2010 showed physicians support medical aid in dying by a five percent margin (46% vs. 41%).

Harris Poll, November 2014¹³

- Three out of four Americans (74%) polled after Brittany Maynard utilized Oregon's Death With Dignity Act agreed that: "Individuals who are terminally ill, in great pain and who have no chance for recovery, have the right to choose to end their own life."
- Only 14 percent disagreed with this position.
- Support for this position cut across all generations and educational groups, both genders, and even political affiliation: millennials (75%), Gen X (76%), baby boomers (74%), matures (68%), high school (75%), some college (74%), college grad (72%), post grad

¹³ Thompson, D., Most Americans Agree With Right-to-Die Movement. The Harris Poll. December 2014. Available from: <https://theharrispoll.com/by-dennis-thompson-health-day-reporter/>

(76%), Rep. (64%), Dem. (78%), ind. (78%).

Gallup Survey, May 2014¹⁴

- Nearly seven out of 10 Americans (69%) think that doctors should be allowed by law to end the life of a patient who has a disease that cannot be cured “by some painless means if the patient and his or her family request it.”

Pew Research Poll, November 2013¹⁵

- Two out of three Americans (66%) “say there are at least some situations in which a patient should be allowed to die” and “the share saying they would stop their treatments so they could die has remained about the same over the past 23 years.”

State Polling

Alaska Polling

Alaska Research Survey, 3rd Quarter of 2017¹⁶

¹⁴ McCarthy, J. Seven in 10 Americans Back Euthanasia. Gallup. June 2014. Available from: http://www.gallup.com/poll/171704/seven-american-s-back-euthanasia.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=syndication&utm_content=morelink&utm_term=Politics

¹⁵ Views on End-of-Life Medical Treatments. Pew Research Center, Religious and Public Life. November 2013. Available from: <http://www.pewforum.org/2013/11/21/views-on-end-of-life-medical-treatments/>

¹⁶ The Alaska Survey. Alaska Survey Research. 3rd Quarter, 2017. Available from: http://www.akleg.gov/basis/get_documents.asp?session=30&docid=38869

- Seven out of 10 Alaskans voters (70%) agreed that: “...a person in Alaska who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness and has been given a prognosis by two physicians of less than six months to live, should have the legal right to end their life on their own terms, through the use of a doctor’s prescription.”

Arizona Polling

Behavior Research Center’s Rocky Mountain Poll, November 2015¹⁷

- By a 2-1 margin (56% vs. 31%), adult heads of households surveyed in Arizona support a “proposed law that would allow terminally ill persons to end their own lives provided that two doctors certify that the person is terminally ill and is mentally competent. The new law would also require that the ill person administer the lethal drug themselves orally or via injection. In this way the patient would be in total control of their end of life decision.”
- Adults in the 55-and-over age bracket support the legislation by more than 2-to-1 (63% vs. 25%). Younger respondents favored the plan by smaller margins.

¹⁷ Arizonan’s Favor Right to Die by 58 to 31 Percent. Behavior Research Center’s Rocky Mountain Poll. Nov. 2015. Available from: <http://brc-research.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/RMP-2015-IV-01.pdf>

California Polling

California Health Care Foundation, Oct. 2019: Help Wanted: Californians' Views and Experiences of Serious Illness and End-of-Life Care¹⁸

- Three in four Californians surveyed (75%) support the End of Life Option Act, the California state law that gives some terminally ill adults the option to take life-ending medication prescribed by a physician.
- Support of this act varied by race/ethnicity (Asian 76%; Black 70%; Latino 68%; White 82%) and income (below 150% of the federal poverty line 65%; between 150% and 399% above the poverty line 71%; 400% of the federal poverty level 83%).

Journal of Palliative Medicine online survey, July-Oct. 2015: Multi-Ethnic Attitudes Toward Physician-Assisted Death in California and Hawaii¹⁹

- "Majority of study participants in California (72.5%) were supportive of PAD [physician-assisted death]."
- "...all ethnic groups were equally supportive of PAD."

¹⁸ Views of the End of Life Option Act, by Race/Ethnicity and Help Wanted Income Level, California, 2019. Accessed at: <https://www.chcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/HelpWantedCaliforniansViewsSeriousIllness.pdf>

¹⁹ Periyakoil, V. MD, Kraemer, H. PhD, and Neri, E. MS. Multi-Ethnic Attitudes Toward Physician-Assisted Death in California and Hawaii. The Journal of Palliative Medicine. June 2016. Available from: www.liebertpub.com/doi/pdfplus/10.1089/jpm.2016.0160

- "Even in the subgroups least supportive of PAD, the majority supports PAD."
- "In California, 75.6% of non-Hispanic whites, 74.3% of Asians, and 71.6% of Hispanics were in support of PAD compared to 59.6% of African Americans."
- "Within Asian Americans, Chinese were most favorably disposed toward PAD (82.7% in California), followed by Japanese (74.6% in California) and the Filipino Americans (67.7% in California)."
- "It is remarkable that in both states, even participants who were deeply spiritual, a majority of 52%, were still in support of PAD."
- "The effects of gender and ethnicity did not reach statistical significance in terms of attitudes toward PAD."

Field Poll, September-October 2015²⁰

- Two out of three California voters (65%) say they support "a bill [End of Life Option Act] that allows California residents who are terminally ill and declared mentally competent, and who have been evaluated by two physicians and have submitted written requests to receive a lethal prescription, which they themselves would administer to end their own lives."
- Support for the legislation includes both Democrats and no-party-preference registrants (70%), Republicans (55%), male voters (67%), female voters (64%), "majorities of voters across all age and

²⁰ DiCamillo, M. Strong Voter Support for the "End of Life Option Act." Field Poll, Field Research Corporation. October 2015. Available from <https://www.mercurynews.com/2015/10/05/right-to-die-california-gov-jerry-brown-signs-law/>

racial/ethnic voter segments, and spans all religious subgroups," including Protestants (58%) and Catholics (55%).

- The survey found 71 percent of voters in favor of granting incurably ill patients this right [to medical aid in dying], "very similar to levels of support found in each of five previous polls dating back to 1995."

Institute of Governmental Studies,
University of California, Berkeley, August
2015²¹

- Three out of 4 Californians (76%) support "a bill under consideration before the California State Legislature [that] would allow terminally ill people to be able to voluntarily end their own lives by taking drugs prescribed by a physician."
- This support includes 82 percent of Democrats, 79 percent of independents and 67 percent of Republicans.
- Support was at least 75 percent among whites, Latinos and Asian Americans, and 52.3 percent among African Americans.
- Support levels of at least 69 percent were registered across all other demographic categories, from gender to educational, income and age levels.

²¹ Maclay, K. IGS Poll: Californians Support Medical Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill. Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California, Berkeley. September 2015. Available from: <https://igs.berkeley.edu/news/igs-poll-californians-support-medical-aid-in-dying-for-terminally-ill>

Goodwin Simon Strategic Research &
Probolsky Research Poll, June 2015²²

- By a 49-point margin, California voters (69% vs. 20%) support "the End-of-Life Option Act [that] would allow a terminally ill adult who is mentally competent the option to request and receive aid-in-dying medication from a physician."
- Support was significant among every voter subgroup, including: Catholics (60%), non-evangelical Protestants (65%), evangelical Christians (57%), whites (69%), African-Americans (67%), Latinos (70%), Asian-Pacific Islanders (69%), men (70%), women (67%), younger voters (69% ages 18-54), older voters (68% ages 55+), Democrats (73%), independents (80%) and Republicans (55%), particularly Republicans over the age of 55 (58%).

Goodwin Simon Strategic Research Poll,
July, 2014²³

- By nearly a 3-1 margin (64% vs. 24%), California voters support "giving a terminally ill person, who is mentally competent, the right to request and

²² Significant Majority of California Voters Support End-of-Life Option Act Allowing Terminally Ill People to Legally Access Medical Aid-in-Dying. Goodwin Simon Strategic Research, Probolsky Research. June 2015. Available from <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Poll-CA-June-2015-RESULTS.pdf>

²³ California Voters Express Strong Support for Death-with-Dignity Option. PR Newswire. July 2014. Available from: <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/Report-CA-Poll-July-2014-Death-with-Dignity-Final-1.pdf>

receive a prescription for life-ending medication from a physician.”

Colorado Polling

Colorado Presidential Election, November 8, 2016²⁴

- By a 30-point margin (65% vs. 35%), Colorado voters approved the medical aid-in-dying ballot initiative, Prop. 106
- Voters across a broad demographic range supported Prop 106, according to exit polling conducted for the Associated Press and television networks in Colorado.
- Both men and women, Hispanics and whites, people with and without college degrees said they backed the proposal.
- Prop 106 received more Yes votes than any other measure or candidate on the Colorado ballot.

Colorado Mesa University, Rocky Mountain PBS, and Franklin & Marshall College, Sept. 14-18, 2016²⁵

²⁴ “Colorado Passes Medical Aid in Dying, Joining 5 Other States, The Denver Post, November 8, 2016; available from: <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/11/08/colorado-a-id-in-dying-proposition-106-election-results>. See also: 2016 Colorado Election Results, The Denver Post, November 10, 2016, available at <http://www.denverpost.com/2016/11/10/2016-colorado-election-results> and <http://data.denverpost.com/election/results/initiatives/2016>

²⁵ CMU-RMPBS Poll Summary of Results, September 22, 2016. Available from: http://www.coloradomesa.edu/social-research-center/documents/CMU-RMPBS-Poll_FINAL%209-22-16.pdf

- Seven out of 10 Colorado voters (70%) either “strongly favor” (46%) or “somewhat favor” (24%) medical aid in dying ballot initiative, Prop. 106, vs. only 22 percent who oppose it.

Colorado Medical Society Member Survey, February 2016²⁶

- Overall, 56% of CMS members are in favor of “physician-assisted suicide, where adults in Colorado could obtain and use prescriptions from their physicians for self-administered, lethal doses of medications”
- 31% “strongly” supported this end of life care option.

Talmey-Drake Research and Strategy Inc. omnibus poll, Jan. 2016²⁷

- By a 40 percent margin (65% vs. 24%), Colorado voters said they support legislation to allow “those who are terminally ill a reliable and peaceful way to end their lives if and when they want to” by self-administering aid-in-dying “medications prescribed by a doctor.

²⁶ Colorado Medical Society Member Survey, On Issues Surrounding Physician-Assisted Death, February 2016, Available from: <http://www.cms.org/articles/physician-assisted-death-polling-shows-a-divided-membership>

²⁷ Brittany Maynard’s widower fights for Colorado end-of-life bill. Durango Herald. February 2016. Available from: <http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20160202/NEWS01/160209943/Brittany-Maynard%E2%80%99s-widower-fights-for-Colorado-end-of-life-bill>

Strategies 360 Poll, May 2014²⁸

- By a 34 percent margin (62% vs. 28%), Colorado voters support “mentally competent, terminally ill patients with less than six months to live be able to end their life using prescription medications they can self-administer.”
- This majority support includes: 76% of Democrats, 68% of unaffiliated voters, 50% of Republican primary voters, 68% of millennial voters (18-34 years-old), 56% of seniors (65+ years old), 55% of Christians, and 52% of Catholics.

Connecticut Polling

Quinnipiac University Poll, March 2015²⁹

- By more than a 2-1 margin (63% vs. 31%), Connecticut voters support “allowing doctors to legally prescribe lethal drugs to help terminally ill patients end their own lives.”
- All party, age and gender groups support the idea, including voters over 55 years old, who support it 59 percent to 34 percent.

²⁸ Public Attitudes Regarding Dying with Dignity (DWD). Strategies 360. May 2014. Available from: <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CO-Poll-14-065-Analysis.pdf>

²⁹ Low Dem Support Hurts Connecticut Gov. Malloy, Quinnipiac University Poll Finds; Voters Say No To More Casinos 4-1. Quinnipiac University. March 2015. Available from: <https://poll.qu.edu/connecticut/release-detail?ReleaseID=2174>

Quinnipiac University Poll, March 2014³⁰

- By nearly a 2-1 margin (61% vs. 32%), Connecticut voters support death-with-dignity legislation “allowing doctors to legally prescribe lethal drugs to help terminally ill patients end their own lives” (see question 49).
- The poll showed majority approval of a death-with-dignity bill among Republicans (51%), Democrats (66%), independents (63%), men (63%), women (58%) and all age groups (18-29: 63%, 30-49: 65%, 50-64: 62%, 65+: 54%).
- A majority of these same groups (except Republicans and 30-39 year olds) also agreed that if death-with-dignity legislation “became law in Connecticut, and [they] were diagnosed with a terminal illness and had less than 6 months to live and were living in severe pain ... [they] would probably ask a doctor to help [them] end [their] life” (see question 51a).

Purple Insights Poll, February 2014³¹

- Two out of three Connecticut voters (66%) support a proposal to allow “mentally competent, terminally ill patients with less than six months to live be able to end their life in a humane

³⁰ Connecticut Voters Back Suicide Bill Almost 2-1, Quinnipiac University Poll Finds: Voters Call Gov. Malloy’s Tax Refund a Gimmick. Quinnipiac University. March 2014. Available from: https://poll.qu.edu/images/polling/ct/ct03062014_g95hjs.pdf/

³¹ Voters + Disabled Community. Connecticut Survey. Purple Insights. February 2014. Available from: <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/CT-PurpleStrategies-CT-Voters-Feb-2014.pdf>

and dignified manner, using prescription medications they can self-administer.”

- This majority support holds across all age groups (<50: 73%, 50-64: 64%, 65+: 62%), among Catholics (61%), Republicans (59%) and disabled voters (65%).

Momentum Analysis Survey, Feb. 2013³²

- Two out of three Connecticut voters (67%) favor allowing “mentally competent, terminally ill patients with less than six months to live to be able to end their life in a humane and dignified manner, using prescription medications they can self-administer.”

Delaware Polling

- By more than a 3-1 margin (72% vs. 20%), Delaware voters support legislation “that would give terminally ill patients with decision-making capacity the right to take medication to end their own lives.”³³
- Majority support is consistent across the state: Wilmington (77%), New Castle County (77%), Kent County (71%), and Sussex County (69%).
- Three out of four (75%) people of faith, including Catholics (80%), Protestants (62%) and people in other religions (96%) support “allowing an adult with

³² Aid in Dying Polling Results. Momentum Analysis-Connecticut. Feb, 2013. Available from: <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/Purple-CC-CT-memo-02-12-13-D2.pdf>

³³ GBAO Strategies, Delaware Statewide Survey, Jan-Feb 2020. Available at: <https://compassionandchoices.org/resource/delaware-polling-2020/>

decision-making capacity, who is dying of a terminal disease with no hope of recovery, the right to bring about their own death.”

- The survey showed majority support for medical aid-in-dying legislation by virtually every demographic group, including party affiliation, race, religion, gender, education level and age group.

Hawai'i Polling

Merriman River Group poll, Nov. 27-29, 2017³⁴

- By nearly a 3-1 margin (63% yes vs. 22% no), registered Hawaii voters who said: “If the state Legislature were to bring up a revised ‘medical aid in dying’ bill again next year [2018],” they would support it.
- A plurality of voters — and in most cases a strong majority of voters — supported medical aid in dying in every demographic group: gender, age, ethnicity, county, district, education, political party affiliation, political leaning and household income.
- “There used to be a stigma associated with it [medical aid in dying], but I think that’s largely gone,” said Matt Fitch, executive director of Merriman River Group, which conducted The Civil Beat Poll. “It’s supported across all four counties, both congressional districts, household income and education brackets.”

³⁴ Blair, Chad. Civil Beat Poll: Support is Still Strong for Medical Aid in Dying. December 2017. Available from: <https://www.civilbeat.org/2017/12/civil-beat-poll-support-is-still-strong-for-medical-aid-in-dying/>

- The results in a June poll were similar: 65 percent supported medical aid in dying while 18 percent opposed.
- A 2012 poll by Civil Beat found 56 percent of Hawaii voters were in favor of physician-assisted suicide, as it was called at the time.

Anthology Marketing Group (formerly QMark Research) survey, Nov. 2016³⁵

- Eight out of 10 Hawaii voters (80%) agreed that “a mentally capable adult [who] is dying of a terminal disease that cannot be cured...definitely (55%) or probably (25%) should have the legal option to request prescription medicine from their doctor, and use that medication to end their suffering in their final stages of dying.”
- Only 12 percent of survey respondents were opposed to this legal option and 8 percent were unsure.
- A majority of Catholics (82%) and those associated with the Christian Fellowship (83%) said terminally ill adults definitely or probably should have this legal option.

³⁵ Big Island News, Hawaii Voters Express Overwhelming Support for Medical Aid in Dying Option, November 2016. Available from: <http://bigislandnow.com/2016/12/21/hawaii-voters-express-overwhelming-support-for-medical-aid-in-dying-option>

Journal of Palliative Medicine online survey, July-Oct. 2015: Multi-Ethnic Attitudes Toward Physician-Assisted Death in California and Hawaii³⁶

- “Majority of study participants in California (72.5%) were supportive of PAD [physician-assisted death].”
- “...all ethnic groups were equally supportive of PAD.”
- “Even in the subgroups least supportive of PAD, the majority supports PAD.”
- “In California, 75.6% of non-Hispanic whites, 74.3% of Asians, and 71.6% of Hispanics were in support of PAD compared to 59.6% of African Americans.”
- “Within Asian Americans, Chinese were most favorably disposed toward PAD (82.7% in California), followed by Japanese (74.6% in California) and the Filipino Americans (67.7% in California).”
- “It is remarkable that in both states, even participants who were deeply spiritual, a majority of 52%, were still in support of PAD.”
- “The effects of gender and ethnicity did not reach statistical significance in terms of attitudes toward PAD.”

³⁶ Periyakoil, V. MD, Kraemer, H. PhD, and Neri, E. MS. Multi-Ethnic Attitudes Toward Physician-Assisted Death in California and Hawaii. The Journal of Palliative Medicine. June 2016. Available from: <http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/pdfplus/10.1089/jpm.2016.0160>.

Qmark Research Survey, January 2012³⁷

- Three out of four Hawai'i doctors (76%) support "allowing a mentally competent adult, who is dying of a terminal disease, the choice to request and receive medication from his/her physician to bring about their own peaceful death, if there were appropriate safeguards in place to protect against abuse."

Maryland Polling

Goucher Poll, Feb. 7-12, 2019³⁸

- More than six out of 10 adults in Maryland (62%) said they support a recently proposed policy "that would allow terminally ill patients to obtain a prescription for a fatal dose of drugs from a willing doctor. To be eligible, these patients would have to be diagnosed as having less than six months to live, be mentally competent, and self-administer the drugs."
- Support included most voters in every demographic group: registered Independents voters (69%), registered Democratic voters (61%), registered Republican voters (55%), progressives (78%), moderates (63%), conservatives (47% support to 43% oppose), Whites (68%), Blacks (49% support vs. 40% oppose), other ethnic groups (62%), men (68%), women (56%), Montgomery

³⁷ 3 out of 4 Hawai'i Doctors Want Aid in Dying as a Medical Practice. April 2012. Available from: <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/CC-HI-Poll-Jan-2012.pdf>

³⁸ Goucher Poll, February 18, 2019. Available from: <https://www.goucher.edu/hughes-center/documents/Goucher-Poll-Feb19-part1.pdf>

Co./Prince Georges Co. (63%), Central Baltimore metro area (60%), outside urban corridor (63%), ages 18-34 (65%), ages 35-54, (64%), ages 55+ (56%), less than a four-year college degree (60%), four-year college degree or more (63%).

Public Policy Polling, February 6-7, 2019³⁹

- Nearly two-thirds of Maryland voters (66%) think "Maryland should allow mentally capable adults, who are dying of a terminal illness with no hope of recovery, to have the legal option to request a medication to bring about their own death."
- Majority support spanned the entire demographic spectrum: Independents (73%), Democrats, (70%), Republicans (53%), Whites (69%), Blacks (59%), Catholics (65%), Protestants (62%), Jews (67%), Muslims (52%), Ages 18 to 29 (67%), Ages 30-45 (63%), Ages 46-65 (67%), Ages 65 or older (67%).

Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) survey, June-July 2016⁴⁰

- Six out of 10 Maryland physicians (60%) supported changing the Maryland State Medical Society's position on Maryland's 2016 aid-in-dying legislation from opposing the bill to supporting it

³⁹ Public Policy Polling, February 11, 2019. Available from: <http://bit.ly/2YIFdDK>

⁴⁰ MedChi Survey on Physician Assisted Suicide/Aid in Dying, June-July 2016. Available from: <http://www.medchi.org/Portals/18/files/Law%20&%20Advocacy/Initiatives%20Page/MedChi%20Survey%20on%20Assisted%20Suicide.pdf?ver=2016-08-09-111636-707>

(47%) or adopting a neutral stance (13%).

- Among the physicians surveyed who were current members of the Maryland State Medical Society, 65 percent supported changing the organization's position to supporting the aid in dying bill (50.2%) or adopting a neutral stance (14.6%).

Purple Strategies Poll, Feb. 2016⁴¹

- Nearly two out of three Maryland voters (65%) said they "support allowing a mentally capable adult, who is dying of a terminal disease with no hope of recovery, the option to ask for medication to bring about their own death"
- Support for medical aid in dying included a majority of African-Americans (59%), Republicans (56%), Catholics (53%), and a plurality of voters who attend religious services weekly (46%).
- A majority (54%) also said they would "want a legal option to end my own life," including a majority of Catholics (50%), nearly half of conservatives (48%), a plurality of seniors (47%), and about 4 in 10 frequent service-goers (39%).

⁴¹ Purple Insights, Compassion and Choices Maryland Statewide Survey. February 2016. Available from: <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Purple-CC-Maryland-Survey-Topline-Feb-24-2016-PUBLIC-STATEWIDE-ONLY-1.pdf>

Goucher Poll, February 2015⁴²

- By a 60 to 35 percent margin, Maryland residents support death-with-dignity legislation that would allow mentally competent, terminally ill patients with less than six months to live to obtain a prescription for a fatal dose of drugs that they could self-administer.

Massachusetts Polling

Boston Globe-Suffolk University, Nov. 2019

- Seven out of 10 Massachusetts residents (70%) agreed that "the terminally ill [should] be permitted to end their own lives with the help of a doctor, also known as medical aid in dying."⁴³
- This majority support spanned the demographic, ethnic and geographic spectrum: Male: 70%, Female: 69%, Worcester/Western Mass.: 70%, Suffolk: 75%, Southeast Mass./Cape: 68%, 1834: 75%, 3544: 65%, 4554: 73%, 5564: 75%, 65+: 68%, White: 73%, Black: 64%, Hispanic: 50%, Asian: 52%.⁴⁴

⁴²Goucher Poll Releases Results on Politician Approval Ratings, Local Presidential Hopefuls, Transportation, Vaccines, and the Environment. No date. Available from:

http://www.goucher.edu/Documents/Pol_Sci/hughes/Goucher%20Poll%20Wednesday%20Feb%2025%20Release%20FINAL.pdf

⁴³ Massachusetts poll: Race, education, gender may influence some divergent views about death. Updated September 26, 2020. Available from: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/09/26/metro/massachusetts-poll-race-education-gender-may-influence-some-divergent-views-about-death/>

⁴⁴ See question 9 on page 5. Available from: <https://www.suffolk.edu/-/media/suffolk/documents/academics/research-at-suffolk/suprc/polls/issues-po>

Massachusetts Medical Society survey, Sept. 5-Oct. 16, 2017⁴⁵

- By a 2-1 margin, Massachusetts physicians (60%) said they strongly support (29%) or support (31%) “medical aid in dying...the practice of physicians giving terminally-ill adults prescriptions for lethal medications, to be self-administered at such time as the patient sees fit” vs. oppose or strongly oppose this end-of-life care option (30%).
- By a more than 2-1 margin, physicians (62%) said they strongly support (27%) or support (35%) “proposed ‘aid-in-dying legislation’ in Massachusetts, ‘an Act relative to end of life options’ (House bill 1194/Senate bill 1225)” vs. oppose or strongly oppose the legislation (28%).

Purple Insights Survey, February 2013⁴⁶

- Seven out of 10 Massachusetts voters (70%) support a proposal to allow “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

https://www.compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/20_2019_tables.pdf?la=en&hash=2006DA4DA404F8265E40EEBFBBFEDC455F1A1C02

⁴⁵ Massachusetts Medical Society House of Delegates. Medical Aid-in-Dying Survey. September 2017. Available from:

<http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/MA-Medical-Society-resolution-ONLY-1.pdf>

⁴⁶Purple Insights. February 2013. Available from: <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/Purple-CC-MA-memo-02.19.14-corrected.pdf>

prescription medications they can self-administer.”

- This majority total support holds across all age groups (<50: 73%, 50-64: 73%, 65+: 67%), among Catholics (64%), Republicans (61%) and disabled voters (75%).

Minnesota Polling

Greenberg, Quinlan Rosner Research survey, Aug. 29 – Sept. 1, 2016⁴⁷

- By a 51-point margin (73% vs. 22%) likely voters in Minnesota “support legislation that would authorize medical aid in dying” for mentally capable people age 18 or older with less than six months to live so they could request medication from their doctor that they could decide to take to shorten the dying process.
- Legislation making the option available earns the support of 87 percent of Democrats, 76 percent of independents, 71 percent of Catholics, and 53 percent of Republicans; 61 percent of independents say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports medical aid-in-dying legislation.
- Majority support for medical aid in dying exists in each region of the state. A legal option for medical aid in dying earns 74 percent support in the Minneapolis and St. Paul metropolitan

⁴⁷ Broad Support for Medical Aid in Dying in MN, Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, September 30, 2016. Available from: <https://www.deathwithdignity.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/GQR-Public-Memo-FINAL.pdf?x33858>

area and 72 percent support in Greater Minnesota.

Minnesota State Senate Fair Poll, August–September 2016⁴⁸

- By more than a 3-1 ratio (68% vs. 22%), Minnesotans who completed the state Senate’s questionnaire at the annual state fair agreed that: “When a mentally competent adult is dying from an incurable and irreversible medical condition that is expected to end the individual’s life within six months...this individual should be allowed to obtain from a physician a prescription for medication that may be self-administered to end that person’s life.”

Minnesota House of Representatives State Fair Poll, August–September 2016⁴⁹

- By nearly a 3-1 ratio, (67% vs. 23%), Minnesotans who completed the state House of Representatives’ questionnaire at the annual state fair agreed that: “When a mentally capable adult is dying from a terminal illness...this adult should be allowed to receive a prescription for life-ending medication they may self-administer.”

⁴⁸ Minnesota State Senate Fair Poll, August-September 2016. Available from: <http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/departments/secretary/info/statefair/2016/2016%20State%20Fair%20Questions.pdf>

⁴⁹ Minnesota House of Representatives State Fair Poll, August-September 2016. Available from: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/leginfo/16poll_results.pdf

Montana Polling

Global Strategy Group Survey, April 2013⁵⁰

- Seven out of 10 Montana voters (69%) support allowing a mentally competent adult who is dying of a terminal disease and in extreme pain to choose to end his or her life in a humane and dignified way.

Nevada

Public Policy Polling, April 2017⁵¹

- Nearly three out of four Nevada voters (72%) support legislation introduced in the state legislature that would give mentally capable, terminally ill adults with six months or less to live the option to get a doctor’s prescription for medication they could decide to take die peacefully in their sleep if their suffering becomes unbearable.
- Majority support was strong across the age, demographic, political and religious spectrum, including women (69%), men (76%), Democrats (80%), Republicans (66%), Independents (67%), Hispanics (63%), Catholics (76%), Protestants (65%), voters with no

⁵⁰ Big Win in the Big Sky State. Compassion & Choices. April 2013. Available from: <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/Compassion-Choices-MT-PAC-Polling-Memo-F04.05.13.pdf>

⁵¹ Nevada Voters Overwhelmingly Support Proposal to Grant Terminally Ill Patients the Right to End Life. Available from: https://www.deathwithdignity.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/PPP_Memo_NVEndofLife_5.2.17-1.pdf?x43788

religion (80%), voters age 18 to 29 (54%), 30 to 45 (63%), 46 to 65 (76%), and 65 years or older (81%).

New Jersey Polling

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, February 2015⁵²

- By more than a 2-1 margin (63% to 29%), New Jersey residents support a state Legislature aid-in-dying bill that “would allow terminally ill patients to obtain a prescription to end their lives.”
- “This is not really a partisan issue in New Jersey,” said Ashley Koning, manager of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll. “Though a difficult subject for many, the issue has widespread support and acceptance here. Public opinion is mainly on the bill’s side.”
- A majority of New Jerseyans of all denominations and levels of religiosity would prefer to relieve pain and discomfort, even if that meant shortening their life, including Protestants (73%), Catholics (64%) and other non-Protestant residents (59%).

Fairleigh Dickinson University’s PublicMind Poll, July 2014⁵³

⁵² Strong Support for “Aid in Dying” Bill, Assisted Suicide “Morally Acceptable,” Rutgers-Eagleton Poll Finds. Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. February 2015. Available from:

https://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/release_02-25-15.pdf

⁵³ Opinion Divided in Garden State, but Majority Support Death With Dignity Act and Want Legal Option for Themselves. Fairleigh Dickinson University, PublicMind Poll. July 2014. Available from: <http://publicmind.fdu.edu/2014/withdignity/>.

- A double-digit majority of New Jersey adults (51% vs. 38%) agreed that the state legislature should pass “a bill that would allow people with fewer than six months to live to end their life with a lethal dose of prescription drugs and the assistance of a doctor.”
- The last time this question was polled, in October 2012, when the legislature considered similar legislation, 46 percent said it should pass the bill.
- “... the consensus seems to be for personal autonomy in deciding how and when to end one’s life when a terminal illness brings the end sooner rather than later,” said Krista Jenkins, director of PublicMind and professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Purple Insights Survey, February 2013⁵⁴

- Six out of 10 New Jersey voters (62%) support a proposal to allow “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 majority total support holds across all age groups (<50: 65%, 50-64: 69%, 65+: 55%), among Catholics (57%), Republicans (58%) and disabled voters (62%).

⁵⁴ Recent Polling in NJ. Purple Insights. February 2014. Available from: <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/Purple-CC-NJ-voter-disabled-topline-02.11.14.pdf>

Momentum Analysis Survey, April 2013⁵⁵

- Six out of 10 New Jersey voters (63%) “favor allowing a mentally competent adult, who is dying of a terminal illness with no hope of recovery, the choice to bring about their death.”

New Mexico Polling

Research & Polling Survey, April 2012⁵⁶

- Two out of three New Mexico voters (65%) favor “allowing a mentally competent adult, who is dying of a terminal disease, with no hope of recovery, the choice to request and receive medication from his/her physician which could bring about their own death, if there were appropriate safeguards in place to protect patients against abuse.”

New York Polling

Medscape WebMD survey, November, 2018⁵⁷

- New York Doctors support medical aid in dying as an end-of-life care option by a 30-point margin (56% vs. 26%).
- By and even larger 67-20 percent margin, New York doctors support proposed legislation to authorize medical aid in dying.

Quinnipiac University Poll, April 26-May 1, 2018⁵⁸

- By more than a 2-1 margin (63% vs. 29%), New York State voters support “allowing doctors to legally prescribe lethal drugs to help terminally ill patients end their own lives.”
- Majority support for medical aid in dying included virtually every demographic group the survey measured, including party affiliation, race, religion, sex, region, education level, and age group.
 - ◆ Republicans (51%), Democrats (69%), Independents (67%)
 - ◆ Whites (69%), Non-whites (54%)
 - ◆ Catholics (55%), Protestants (54%), voters who attend religious services less than

⁵⁵ New Poll: New Jersey Voters Overwhelmingly Support Death With Dignity. Compassion & Choices. April 2013. Available from: <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/NJ-Poll-Memo-mem-03-29-13-CC-NJ.pdf>

⁵⁶ Topline Results, Research & Polling, Inc. Compassion & Choices. April 2012. Available from: <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/NM-polling-ResearchPollingTOPLINES-April-2012.pdf>

⁵⁷ NY Doctors Support Medical Aid in Dying 56-26 Percent; Support NY Medical Aid in Dying Bill 67-20 Percent, January 28, 2019. Available from: http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/CC_PhysiciansSummary_Report_8.5x11_04_DRAFT_1-22-19_PD.pdf

⁵⁸ New York Voters Back Legalized Marijuana Almost 2-1, Quinnipiac University Poll Finds; Support For Assisted Suicide Tops 2-1, May 3, 2018. Available from: <https://poll.qu.edu/new-york-state/release-detail?ReleaseID=2541>

- weekly (70%), voters with no religious affiliation (87%),
- ◆ Men (69%), women (58%)
- ◆ Upstate voters (63%), New York City voters (63%), suburban voters (64%),
- ◆ Voters with a college degree (73%), voters without a college degree (64%),
- ◆ Voters aged 18-34 (69%), voters aged 35-49 (63%), voters aged 50-64 (68%), and voters aged 65+ (60%).

Eagle Point Strategies Survey, September 2015⁵⁹

- Three of four New York voters (77%) think “when a mentally competent adult is dying from a terminal illness that cannot be cured, the adult should be allowed the option to request a prescription for life ending medication from their doctor, and decide whether and when to use that medication to end their suffering in their final stages of dying.
- “Clear majorities extend across lines based on respondents’ religious affiliation, level of education, political party enrollment, gender, age and region of the state.”
- When respondents learned more about New York’s medical aid-in-dying legislation, including opponents’ arguments against it, support increased to four out of five voters (81%).

⁵⁹ New York Statewide Survey, Key Findings. Eagle Point Strategies, LLC. September 2015. Available from: http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/EPs-NY-Poll-Key_Findings-10-5-am.pdf

Tennessee Polling

Princeton Survey Research Associates International/Vanderbilt University, May 2015⁶⁰

- Tennessee voters agreed by a 17-point margin (55% vs. 38%) that doctors should be permitted to assist people with painful, incurable diseases to painlessly end their lives.
- Nearly two-thirds of voters (65%) supported some sort of option for ending one’s life due to health concerns.

Utah Polling

Dan Jones & Associates survey, Nov 2015⁶¹

- Nearly six of 10 adult Utahns (58%) favor “some kind of ‘right to die’ law, where licensed medical personnel could help a terminally-ill, mentally-competent person die with allowed drugs if that person chooses.”
- Republicans are divided on the issue with 41% saying they favor “right-to-die” legislation and 50%

⁶⁰ Patterson, J. The full General Assembly should vote on Insure Tennessee: Vanderbilt Poll, Vanderbilt University, Research News at Vanderbilt. May 2015. Available from: <http://news.vanderbilt.edu/2015/05/the-full-general-assembly-should-vote-on-insure-tennessee-vanderbilt-poll/>.

⁶¹ Schott, B. Poll: Majority of Utahns Support ‘Right-to-Die’ Legislation: December 2015. Available from <http://utahpolicy.com/index.php/features/today-at-utah-policy/7910-poll-majority-of-utahns-support-right-to-die-legislation>

opposed. Democrats and independents overwhelmingly prefer the idea with 90% of Democrats and 67% of independents supporting.

- There was not much of a religious divide on the question: 94% of those who say they don't ascribe to any religion, self-described "not active" Latter Day Saints (LDS) Church members, 80% of Protestants, 79% of "somewhat active" Mormons, and 76% of Catholics favored the idea.
- The only religious group opposed to the idea were "very active" LDS Church members by a 54-38% margin.

strongly support — the right of terminally ill adults with less than six months to live to legally obtain medication to end their lives.

Vermont Polling

Momentum Analysis Survey, June 2012⁶²

- Three out of four Vermont voters (74%) favor allowing "mentally competent, terminally ill patients with less than six months to live to be able to end their life in a humane and dignified manner, using prescription medications they can self-administer."

Washington, D.C., Polling

Lake Research Survey, July 2015⁶³

- Two-thirds (67%) of District of Columbia residents support — and 51 percent

⁶² Aid in Dying Polling Results. Momentum Analysis. Vermont. May 2012. Available from: <http://compassionandchoices.org/wp-content/uploads/topline-05-17-12-cc-ma-statewide.pdf>

⁶³ D.C. Council Holds First Hearing on Death with Dignity as New Poll Shows 67% Support in District. Death with Dignity. July 2015. Available from: <https://www.deathwithdignity.org/news/2015/07/dc-hearing-poll/>.