



**Voter + Disabled Community  
New Jersey Survey  
February 2014**

**METHODOLOGY**

Purple Insights conducted 601 interviews by phone in New Jersey among likely 2014 voters. 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 9th, 2014. The margin of error for statewide voters is +/- 4.0%.

**VIEWS TOWARD AID IN DYING**

**1. 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?**

	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
Strongly support	47	50
Not so strongly support	15	13
Not so strongly oppose	8	5
Strongly oppose	17	14
DK/ref	13	18
<b>NET SUPPORT</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>NET OPPOSE</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>

**2. 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?**

	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
Strongly support	47	50
Not so strongly support	15	13
Not so strongly oppose	6	4
Strongly oppose	23	18
DK/ref	8	15
<b>NET SUPPORT</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>NET OPPOSE</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>

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

	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
I would want a legal option to end my own life	65	62
I would not want a legal option to end my own life	28	22
I'm not sure about this	7	16

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

	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
Government shouldn't meddle in the private, personal decisions terminally ill people make about whether or not to end their own lives	76	68
Government should protect the terminally ill from ending their lives hastily or against their will	18	15
Neither	2	6
I'm not sure about this	5	11

**5. 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?**

	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
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	64	55
State governments should regulate end of life decisions, in order to prevent abuses	21	15
Neither	7	14
I'm not sure about this	8	15

**MESSAGING**

**6. 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>	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
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.	61	55
Terminally ill patients who thoughtfully consider their options should have the right to die peacefully and on their own terms.	58	62
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.	53	54
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.	52	52

**7. 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.**

<i>Showing Very Convincing</i>	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
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.	32	31
Only God should decide when people die, and allowing people to take their own life goes against God's plan.	28	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.	20	17
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	19	17

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**8. What is your gender?**

	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
Female	52	63
Male	48	37

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

	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
Democrat, strongly	28	31
Democrat, not strongly	9	17
Independent, lean Democrat	8	10
Independent	20	17
Independent, lean Republican	7	7
Republican, not strongly	8	9
Republican, strongly	15	7
Don't Know/Refused	5	2

**10. What is your age?**

	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
18-29	7	21
30-39	11	12
40-49	19	10
50-59	24	20
60-69	21	24
70-79	13	9
80+	5	3
Refusal/DK	0	0

**11. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?**

	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
Less than high school	1	2
High school graduate	13	22
Some college	16	23
Trade or professional school	4	9
College graduate	37	29
Post-graduate work or degree	29	15
Don't Know/Refused	0	0

<b>12. Are you black, white, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American?</b>		
	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
White	77	73
Black	9	11
Hispanic	3	6
Asian	2	5
Native American	1	2
Other	3	1
Don't Know /Refused	5	3

<b>13. What is your marital status?</b>		
	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
Single	16	34
Married or domestic partnership	69	46
Widowed	8	6
Divorced	5	13
Separated	1	1
Don't know/Refused	1	1

<b>14. What is your present religion, if any?</b>		
	<b>Voters</b>	<b>Disabled</b>
Catholic	36	34
Other Christian	18	13
Protestant	15	15
Jewish	11	12
None/Atheist	11	9
Agnostic	2	3
Muslim	0	1
Something else	3	5
Not sure/refused	4	9