

Alert – Mental Capacity Act Survey

METHODOLOGY NOTE

ComRes interviewed 6,130 GB adults aged 18+, including 1,358 disabled British adults aged 18+, online between 8th and 16th January 2014. Data were weighted to be representative of all GB adults aged 18+. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

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To commission a voting intention poll or a public opinion survey please contact Katharine Peacock: katharine.peacock@comres.co.uk

To register for Pollwatch, a monthly newsletter update on the polls, please email: pollwatch@comres.co.uk

Mental Capacity Act Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 8th-16th January 2014

Absolutes/col percents

Table 1

Q.1 Under the Mental Capacity Act, doctors can allow people who cannot communicate for themselves to die of dehydration, if they think that it is in the patient's "best interests" and if they believe their death to be approaching soon. Would you support or oppose a change in the law to prevent this from happening...?

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Social Grade				Employment Sector	
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Private
Unweighted base	6130	2911	3219	531	893	1050	1182	1040	1434	1878	1749	985	1518	777	2394
Weighted base	6130	3004	3126	728	1032	1032	1093	910	1335	1639	1700	1335	1456	829	2604
<u>If the patient has asked to be given water if necessary through a tube in advance of them losing their ability to communicate</u>															
Support	3544 58%	1701 57%	1843 59%	408 56%	598 58%	552 54%	620 57%	539 59%	827 62%	959 59%	984 58%	756 57%	846 58%	492 59%	1457 56%
Oppose	1073 17%	553 18%	520 17%	118 16%	144 14%	174 17%	200 18%	169 19%	268 20%	370 23%	275 16%	198 15%	230 16%	153 19%	446 17%
Don't know	1513 25%	750 25%	763 24%	203 28%	290 28%	306 30%	272 25%	202 22%	240 18%	309 19%	441 26%	381 29%	381 26%	183 22%	702 27%
<u>If there had been no mention about whether water should be provided or not, in advance of them losing their ability to communicate</u>															
Support	2051 33%	1013 34%	1037 33%	236 32%	329 32%	334 32%	344 31%	280 31%	528 40%	588 36%	565 33%	428 32%	469 32%	291 35%	833 32%
Oppose	1712 28%	857 29%	855 27%	178 24%	259 25%	252 24%	297 27%	288 32%	437 33%	546 33%	438 26%	339 25%	389 27%	235 28%	684 26%
Don't know	2367 39%	1133 38%	1234 39%	314 43%	443 43%	447 43%	451 41%	342 38%	370 28%	504 31%	696 41%	569 43%	598 41%	302 36%	1088 42%

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Q.1 Under the Mental Capacity Act, doctors can allow people who cannot communicate for themselves to die of dehydration, if they think that it is in the patient's "best interests" and if they believe their death to be approaching soon. Would you support or oppose a change in the law to prevent this from happening...?

Base: All respondents

	Region													Do you have a longstanding physical or mental condition or disability?					
	Total	Scotland	Wales	NET: England	North East	North West	York-shire & Humber-side	West Midlands	East Midlands	Eastern	London	South East	South West	NET: Yes	Mental condition	Phys-ical condition	Disab-ility	Other	No
Unweighted base	6130	551	308	5271	253	730	524	574	463	552	666	926	583	1358	364	818	491	77	4671
Weighted base	6130	552	307	5272	245	674	552	552	429	613	797	858	552	1241	340	733	442	74	4778
If the patient has asked to be given water if necessary through a tube in advance of them losing their ability to communicate																			
Support	3544 58%	335 61%	177 58%	3032 58%	134 55%	400 59%	317 57%	324 59%	252 59%	352 57%	452 57%	506 59%	296 54%	756 61%	206 61%	452 62%	276 62%	37 51%	2726 57%
Oppose	1073 17%	95 17%	38 12%	940 18%	45 18%	111 17%	92 17%	102 18%	82 19%	108 18%	134 17%	144 17%	123 22%	226 18%	64 19%	136 18%	72 16%	19 25%	835 17%
Don't know	1513 25%	122 22%	92 30%	1300 25%	66 27%	163 24%	143 26%	126 23%	95 22%	154 25%	211 26%	208 24%	133 24%	259 21%	70 21%	146 20%	95 21%	18 24%	1217 25%
If there had been no mention about whether water should be provided or not, in advance of them losing their ability to communicate																			
Support	2051 33%	184 33%	97 32%	1771 34%	79 32%	226 34%	195 35%	188 34%	142 33%	186 30%	269 34%	301 35%	183 33%	427 34%	120 35%	241 33%	146 33%	24 33%	1600 33%
Oppose	1712 28%	153 28%	88 29%	1472 28%	82 33%	191 28%	132 24%	147 27%	126 29%	174 28%	220 28%	241 28%	160 29%	396 32%	103 30%	233 32%	129 29%	31 43%	1287 27%
Don't know	2367 39%	216 39%	122 40%	2029 38%	84 34%	258 38%	225 41%	216 39%	161 38%	253 41%	308 39%	316 37%	208 38%	419 34%	117 34%	260 35%	167 38%	18 25%	1891 40%