

CARE – Assisted Suicide Poll

METHODOLOGY NOTE

ComRes interviewed 2,055 British adults online between 11th and 13th July 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.

All press releases or other publications must be checked with ComRes before use. ComRes requires 48 hours to check a press release unless otherwise agreed.

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

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

Absolutes/col percents

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Table 1

Q.1 A new Bill is due to be debated in the House of Lords which is designed to enable mentally competent adults in the UK who are terminally ill, and who have declared a clear and settled intention to end their own life, to be provided with assistance to commit suicide by self-administering lethal drugs. Two doctors would need to countersign their declaration and be satisfied that the person has a condition which cannot be reversed by treatment and is reasonably expected to die within 6 months. In principle would you agree or disagree with this proposal? Base: All respondents

			Ger	nder			Ag	e				Social C	Grade		Employme	
		<u>Total</u>	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Pri- vate
Unweighted base		2055	1000	1055	233	308	314	400	336	464	597	599	346	513	233	868
Weighted base		2055	1007	1048	244	346	346	366	305	447	549	570	448	488	264	886
NET: Agree		1509 73%	738 73%	771 74%	163 67%	238 69%	259 75%	287 78%	241 79%	321 72%	392 71%	429 75%	327 73%	361 74%	206 78%	641 72%
Agree strongly	(4)	776 38%	370 37%	406 39%	86 35%	127 37%	136 39%	157 43%	112 37%	157 35%	184 34%	220 39%	161 36%	211 43%	106 40%	325 37%
Agree	(3)	733 36%	368 37%	365 35%	78 32%	111 32%	123 36%	129 35%	128 42%	164 37%	207 38%	209 37%	166 37%	151 31%	99 37%	317 36%
Disagree	(2)	140 7%	79 8%	61 6%	15 6%	26 8%	23 7%	21 6%	20 7%	35 8%	46 8%	42 7%	29 7%	22 4%	15 6%	61 7%
Disagree strongly	(1)	112 5%	51 5%	61 6%	9 4%	20 6%	20 6%	12 3%	14 5%	36 8%	42 8%	24 4%	18 4%	27 5%	16 6%	39 4%
NET: Disagree		252 12%	130 13%	122 12%	25 10%	46 13%	43 12%	33 9%	34 11%	71 16%	89 16%	66 12%	48 11%	49 10%	31 12%	100 11%
Don't know		294 14%	139 14%	155 15%	56 23%	62 18%	44 13%	47 13%	30 10%	55 12%	69 13%	75 13%	72 16%	78 16%	28 11%	145 16%
Mean		3.23	3.22	3.25	3.27	3.22	3.24	3.35	3.23	3.13	3.11	3.26	3.25	3.33	3.25	3.25
Standard deviation Standard error		0.85 0.02	0.84 0.03	0.86 0.03	0.82 0.06	0.88 0.06	0.86 0.05	0.77 0.04	0.80 0.05	0.92 0.05	0.91 0.04	0.81 0.04	0.80 0.05	0.85 0.04	0.85 0.06	0.82 0.03



Absolutes/col percents

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Table 1

Q.1 A new Bill is due to be debated in the House of Lords which is designed to enable mentally competent adults in the UK who are terminally ill, and who have declared a clear and settled intention to end their own life, to be provided with assistance to commit suicide by self-administering lethal drugs. Two doctors would need to countersign their declaration and be satisfied that the person has a condition which cannot be reversed by treatment and is reasonably expected to die within 6 months. In principle would you agree or disagree with this proposal? Base: All respondents

								Region							Voting I	ntention			2010 Vote	
		<u></u>	Scot- land	North East	North West	York- shire & Hum- ber- side	West Mid- lands	East Mid- lands	Wales	East- ern	London	South East	South West	Con	Lab	LibDem	UKIP	Conser- vative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Unweighted base		2055	194	83	236	175	171	142	98	197	255	309	195	436	568	111	291	556	407	363
Weighted base		2055	185	82	226	185	185	144	103	206	267	288	185	437	579	112	287	555	430	343
NET: Agree		1509 73%	135 73%	65 79%	166 74%	144 78%	133 72%	109 76%	73 71%	163 79%	170 64%	214 74%	137 74%	334 77%	422 73%	83 74%	225 78%	419 75%	325 76%	281 82%
Agree strongly	(4)	776 38%	73 39%	37 44%	73 32%	70 38%	67 36%	55 38%	39 37%	96 47%	88 33%	107 37%	72 39%	166 38%	213 37%	41 37%	131 45%	210 38%	163 38%	148 43%
Agree	(3)	733 36%	63 34%	28 34%	94 42%	74 40%	66 35%	54 38%	34 33%	67 32%	82 31%	107 37%	65 35%	168 39%	208 36%	41 37%	94 33%	208 38%	162 38%	133 39%
Disagree	(2)	140 7%	14 7%	4 5%	23 10%	8 4%	12 6%	7 5%	13 13%	16 8%	27 10%	7 3%	9 5%	29 7%	45 8%	11 9%	13 4%	39 7%	29 7%	20 6%
Disagree strongly	(1)	112 5%	12 6%	3 4%	12 5%	8 4%	12 6%	11 7%	3 3%	11 6%	14 5%	18 6%	8 4%	25 6%	36 6%	5 5%	18 6%	39 7%	23 5%	15 4%
NET: Disagree		252 12%	25 14%	8 9%	35 16%	16 8%	23 13%	18 12%	16 16%	28 13%	40 15%	25 9%	17 9%	54 12%	81 14%	16 14%	31 11%	77 14%	52 12%	35 10%
Don't know		294 14%	24 13%	10 12%	24 11%	25 14%	29 16%	17 12%	13 13%	15 7%	57 21%	48 17%	31 17%	49 11%	76 13%	14 12%	32 11%	59 11%	53 12%	28 8%
Mean		3.23	3.22	3.35	3.12	3.29	3.21	3.21	3.21	3.30	3.16	3.26	3.30	3.22	3.19	3.21	3.32	3.19	3.23	3.31
Standard deviation Standard error		0.85 0.02	0.89 0.07	0.80 0.09	0.84 0.06	0.78 0.06	0.88 0.07	0.89 0.08	0.82 0.09	0.86 0.06	0.88 0.06	0.84 0.05	0.81 0.06	0.84 0.04	0.87 0.04	0.83 0.08	0.87 0.05	0.88 0.04	0.84 0.04	0.79 0.04



Absolutes/col percents

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Table 2

Q.2 Given your support for the proposal in principle, would each of the following arguments against allowing assisted suicide make you change your mind, or not? Surveys consistently show the majority of doctors oppose a change in the law to permit assisted suicide, as does the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the British Geriatric Society and the Association for Palliative Medicine

Base: All who support the proposal

	-	Ger	nder			Ag	e				Social	Grade		Employme	
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Pri- vate
Unweighted base	1506	745	761	156	209	233	311	260	337	427	444	255	380	174	629
Weighted base	1509	738	771	163	238	259	287	241	321	392	429	327	361	206	641
Would still support	981 65%	481 65%	500 65%	98 60%	144 60%	165 64%	196 68%	163 68%	215 67%	272 69%	270 63%	213 65%	226 63%	140 68%	402 63%
Would oppose	155 10%	87 12%	68 9%	21 13%	20 8%	29 11%	29 10%	19 8%	36 11%	38 10%	50 12%	31 10%	36 10%	23 11%	72 11%
Don't know	373 25%	170 23%	202 26%	45 27%	74 31%	65 25%	62 22%	58 24%	70 22%	81 21%	109 25%	83 25%	99 27%	43 21%	167 26%



Absolutes/col percents

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Q.2 Given your support for the proposal in principle, would each of the following arguments against allowing assisted suicide make you change your mind, or not? Surveys consistently show the majority of doctors oppose a change in the law to permit assisted suicide, as does the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the British Geriatric Society and the Association for Palliative Medicine

Base: All who support the proposal

							Region							Voting	Intention			2010 Vote	э
	Total	Scot- land	North East	North West	York- shire & Hum- ber- side	West Mid- lands	East Mid-	Wales	East- ern	London	South East	South West	Con	Lab	LibDem	UKIP	Conser- vative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Unweighted base	1506	137	64	174	136	123	111	73	155	164	228	141	333	412	82	226	419	308	291
Weighted base	1509	135	65	166	144	133	109	73	163	170	214	137	334	422	83	225	419	325	281
Would still support	981 65%	90 66%	41 63%	97 58%	100 69%	90 68%	78 71%	51 71%	96 59%	105 62%	145 68%	88 65%	230 69%	250 59%	56 67%	155 69%	283 68%	194 60%	192 68%
Would oppose	155 10%	18 13%	8 12%	18 11%	11 8%	15 11%	8 7%	5 7%	12 7%	23 13%	20 9%	18 13%	36 11%	60 14%	8 10%	14 6%	38 9%	48 15%	32 11%
Don't know	373 25%	28 20%	16 25%	51 31%	33 23%	28 21%	23 22%	17 23%	54 33%	42 25%	50 23%	31 22%	69 21%	111 26%	18 22%	56 25%	98 23%	84 26%	57 20%

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Absolutes/col percents

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Table 3

Q.2 Given your support for the proposal in principle, would each of the following arguments against allowing assisted suicide make you change your mind, or not? All major disability rights advocacy groups in Britain oppose a change in the law to permit assisted suicide including Disability Rights UK, SCOPE, UK Disabled Person's Council and Not Dead Yet UK

Base: All who support the proposal

	-	Ger	nder			Ag	le				Social (Grade		Employme	
	<u>Total</u>	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Pri- vate
Unweighted base	1506	745	761	156	209	233	311	260	337	427	444	255	380	174	629
Weighted base	1509	738	771	163	238	259	287	241	321	392	429	327	361	206	641
Would still support	958 63%	482 65%	475 62%	103 63%	145 61%	158 61%	188 65%	156 65%	207 65%	262 67%	270 63%	211 64%	215 60%	137 67%	396 62%
Would oppose	178 12%	96 13%	82 11%	20 12%	33 14%	27 10%	31 11%	24 10%	43 13%	52 13%	47 11%	41 12%	38 11%	25 12%	76 12%
Don't know	373 25%	160 22%	213 28%	40 25%	60 25%	74 28%	68 24%	60 25%	71 22%	77 20%	112 26%	76 23%	108 30%	44 21%	169 26%



Absolutes/col percents

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Q.2 Given your support for the proposal in principle , would each of the following arguments against allowing assisted suicide make you change your mind, or not? All major disability rights advocacy groups in Britain oppose a change in the law to permit assisted suicide including Disability Rights UK, SCOPE, UK Disabled Person's Council and Not Dead Yet UK

Base: All who support the proposal

							Region							Voting	Intention			2010 Vote	e
	Total	Scot- land	North East	North West	York- shire & Hum- ber- side	West Mid- lands	East Mid- lands	Wales	East- ern	London	South East	South West	Con	Lab	LibDem	UKIP	Conser- vative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Unweighted base	1506	137	64	174	136	123	111	73	155	164	228	141	333	412	82	226	419	308	291
Weighted base	1509	135	65	166	144	133	109	73	163	170	214	137	334	422	83	225	419	325	281
Would still support	958 63%	77 57%	44 68%	101 60%	95 66%	95 72%	75 69%	48 66%	99 61%	95 56%	138 64%	90 66%	242 72%	249 59%	54 65%	149 66%	283 67%	188 58%	188 67%
Would oppose	178 12%	18 13%	8 13%	26 16%	13 9%	10 8%	12 11%	9 12%	14 8%	30 18%	20 9%	18 14%	36 11%	69 16%	9 11%	21 9%	39 9%	56 17%	35 13%
Don't know	373 25%	40 30%	12 19%	40 24%	36 25%	28 21%	22 21%	16 22%	50 31%	45 26%	57 26%	28 21%	56 17%	103 25%	20 24%	55 24%	97 23%	81 25%	57 20%



Absolutes/col percents

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Table 4

Q.2 Given your support for the proposal in principle, would each of the following arguments against allowing assisted suicide make you change your mind, or not? The risk of people feeling pressurised into ending their life early so as not to be a financial or care burden on loved ones, as has happened in the US where more than six in ten of those requesting a lethal prescription in Washington State (where the law is similar to that proposed in the House of Lords debate) say that one of their reasons for doing so was not to be a burden on friends, family or caregivers Base: All who support the proposal

		Ger	nder			Ac	je				Social	Grade		Employme	
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Pri- vate
Unweighted base	1506	745	761	156	209	233	311	260	337	427	444	255	380	174	629
Weighted base	1509	738	771	163	238	259	287	241	321	392	429	327	361	206	641
Would still support	715 47%	373 51%	342 44%	61 37%	110 46%	125 48%	145 50%	119 49%	155 48%	210 54%	202 47%	137 42%	165 46%	104 51%	299 47%
Would oppose	417 28%	186 25%	231 30%	63 38%	54 23%	70 27%	82 29%	65 27%	82 26%	106 27%	116 27%	105 32%	90 25%	58 28%	172 27%
Don't know	377 25%	179 24%	198 26%	40 24%	74 31%	64 25%	60 21%	56 23%	84 26%	75 19%	110 26%	86 26%	106 29%	43 21%	171 27%



Absolutes/col percents

Table 4

Q.2 Given your support for the proposal in principle, would each of the following arguments against allowing assisted suicide make you change your mind, or not? The risk of people feeling pressurised into ending their life early so as not to be a financial or care burden on loved ones, as has happened in the US where more than six in ten of those requesting a lethal prescription in Washington State (where the law is similar to that proposed in the House of Lords debate) say that one of their reasons for doing so was not to be a burden on friends, family or caregivers Base: All who support the proposal

							Region							Voting	Intention			2010 Vote	e
	Total	Scot- land	North East	North West	York- shire & Hum- ber- side	West Mid- lands	East Mid-	Wales	East- ern	London	South East	South West	Con	Lab	LibDem	UKIP	Conser- vative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Unweighted base	1506	137	64	174	136	123	111	73	155	164	228	141	333	412	82	226	419	308	291
Weighted base	1509	135	65	166	144	133	109	73	163	170	214	137	334	422	83	225	419	325	281
Would still support	715 47%	61 45%	24 37%	73 44%	82 57%	70 53%	52 48%	42 57%	72 44%	71 42%	98 46%	70 51%	175 52%	177 42%	37 45%	115 51%	216 52%	134 41%	142 51%
Would oppose	417 28%	38 28%	29 45%	47 28%	33 23%	33 25%	30 28%	16 23%	39 24%	43 26%	67 32%	40 29%	87 26%	136 32%	27 33%	59 26%	106 25%	104 32%	77 27%
Don't know	377 25%	37 27%	12 18%	47 28%	29 20%	29 22%	26 24%	15 20%	52 32%	55 32%	49 23%	27 20%	72 21%	109 26%	19 22%	50 22%	97 23%	87 27%	62 22%

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Absolutes/col percents

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Table 5

Q.2 Given your support for the proposal in principle, would each of the following arguments against allowing assisted suicide make you change your mind, or not? Concerns that end-of-life care would be likely to worsen under financial pressures because it costs on average £3000 to £4000 a week to provide in-patient hospice care, but just a one-off cost of £5 to pay for the drugs which would help them commit suicide Base: All who support the proposal

		Gei	nder			Ag	je				Social (Grade		Employme	
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Pri- vate
Unweighted base	1506	745	761	156	209	233	311	260	337	427	444	255	380	174	629
Weighted base	1509	738	771	163	238	259	287	241	321	392	429	327	361	206	641
Would still support	886 59%	463 63%	422 55%	95 58%	132 56%	151 58%	171 60%	137 57%	200 62%	245 63%	254 59%	185 57%	201 56%	133 65%	346 54%
Would oppose	219 15%	94 13%	125 16%	27 16%	34 14%	34 13%	37 13%	40 16%	48 15%	70 18%	59 14%	49 15%	41 11%	29 14%	97 15%
Don't know	404 27%	181 24%	223 29%	42 25%	72 30%	75 29%	78 27%	64 27%	73 23%	76 19%	116 27%	94 29%	118 33%	43 21%	199 31%



Absolutes/col percents

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Q.2 Given your support for the proposal in principle, would each of the following arguments against allowing assisted suicide make you change your mind, or not? Concerns that end-of-life care would be likely to worsen under financial pressures because it costs on average £3000 to £4000 a week to provide in-patient hospice care, but just a one-off cost of £5 to pay for the drugs which would help them commit suicide Base: All who support the proposal

							Region							Voting I	Intention			2010 Vote	e
	_Total	Scot- land	North East	North West	York- shire & Hum- ber- side	West Mid- lands	East Mid- lands	Wales	East- 	London	South East	South West	Con	Lab	LibDem	UKIP	Conser- vative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Unweighted base	1506	137	64	174	136	123	111	73	155	164	228	141	333	412	82	226	419	308	291
Weighted base	1509	135	65	166	144	133	109	73	163	170	214	137	334	422	83	225	419	325	281
Would still support	886 59%	79 58%	33 51%	100 60%	87 60%	82 62%	63 58%	45 61%	93 57%	97 57%	128 60%	78 57%	210 63%	225 53%	52 63%	150 67%	258 62%	171 53%	165 59%
Would oppose	219 15%	17 13%	11 17%	19 11%	15 10%	19 15%	19 17%	10 14%	17 10%	30 18%	35 16%	27 19%	53 16%	74 18%	12 15%	20 9%	59 14%	62 19%	47 17%
Don't know	404 27%	39 29%	21 32%	48 29%	42 29%	31 24%	27 25%	18 25%	53 32%	43 25%	50 23%	32 24%	71 21%	123 29%	19 23%	55 25%	102 24%	92 28%	68 24%



Absolutes/col percents

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Table 6

Q.2 Given your support for the proposal in principle, would each of the following arguments against allowing assisted suicide make you change your mind, or not? Changes in the law to allow assisted suicide and/or euthanasia in other countries like Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland have led to a steady annual increase in the number of cases and spread of the practice to involve people with chronic but not fatal diseases, disabled people, children and those with mental illnesses and dementia

Base: All who support the proposal

	-	Ger	nder			Ag	е				Social C	Grade		Employme	
	<u>Total</u>	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Pri- vate
Unweighted base	1506	745	761	156	209	233	311	260	337	427	444	255	380	174	629
Weighted base	1509	738	771	163	238	259	287	241	321	392	429	327	361	206	641
Would still support	878 58%	467 63%	412 53%	98 60%	130 55%	147 57%	164 57%	141 59%	199 62%	247 63%	248 58%	171 52%	213 59%	126 61%	369 58%
Would oppose	315 21%	151 20%	164 21%	32 20%	51 21%	44 17%	63 22%	57 24%	68 21%	77 20%	85 20%	84 26%	68 19%	39 19%	130 20%
Don't know	316 21%	121 16%	195 25%	33 20%	57 24%	69 26%	60 21%	43 18%	54 17%	67 17%	96 22%	72 22%	81 22%	40 20%	142 22%



Absolutes/col percents

Table 6

Q.2 Given your support for the proposal in principle, would each of the following arguments against allowing assisted suicide make you change your mind, or not? Changes in the law to allow assisted suicide and/or euthanasia in other countries like Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland have led to a steady annual increase in the number of cases and spread of the practice to involve people with chronic but not fatal diseases, disabled people, children and those with mental illnesses and dementia

Base: All who support the proposal

							Region							Voting	Intention			2010 Vote	e
	<u></u>	Scot- land	North East	North West	York- shire & Hum- ber- side	West Mid- lands	East Mid- lands	Wales	East- ern	London	South East	South West	<u> </u>	Lab	LibDem		Conser- vative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Unweighted base	1506	137	64	174	136	123	111	73	155	164	228	141	333	412	82	226	419	308	291
Weighted base	1509	135	65	166	144	133	109	73	163	170	214	137	334	422	83	225	419	325	281
Would still support	878 58%	83 61%	36 56%	92 55%	77 54%	84 63%	51 47%	40 55%	102 63%	100 59%	127 59%	86 63%	216 65%	232 55%	51 62%	142 63%	273 65%	175 54%	171 61%
Would oppose	315 21%	31 23%	14 21%	35 21%	28 19%	29 22%	34 31%	19 27%	20 13%	38 22%	45 21%	21 16%	66 20%	104 25%	15 18%	43 19%	73 17%	82 25%	54 19%
Don't know	316 21%	22 16%	14 22%	40 24%	39 27%	20 15%	24 22%	13 18%	40 25%	31 18%	43 20%	30 22%	52 15%	85 20%	17 20%	39 18%	73 18%	68 21%	56 20%



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Table 7

Q.2 Given your support for the proposal in principle, would each of the following arguments against allowing assisted suicide make you change your mind, or not? Summary

Base: All who support the proposal

		Ger	nder	Age							Social	Employment Sector			
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Pri- vate
Unweighted base	1506	745	761	156	209	233	311	260	337	427	444	255	380	174	629
Weighted base	1509	738	771	163	238	259	287	241	321	392	429	327	361	206	641
Would change mind (any oppose)	628 42%	294 40%	334 43%	83 51%	91 38%	103 40%	118 41%	102 42%	132 41%	173 44%	178 42%	143 44%	134 37%	88 43%	272 42%
Would not change mind (none)	881 58%	444 60%	437 57%	81 49%	147 62%	156 60%	169 59%	139 58%	189 59%	219 56%	250 58%	184 56%	228 63%	118 57%	370 58%



Absolutes/col percents

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Table 7

Q.2 Given your support for the proposal in principle, would each of the following arguments against allowing assisted suicide make you change your mind, or not? Summary

Base: All who support the proposal

		Region											Voting Intention				2010 Vote		
					York- shire & Hum-														
	Total	Scot- land	North East	North West	ber- side	West Mid- lands	East Mid- lands	Wales	East- ern	London	South East	South West	Con	Lab	LibDem	UKIP	Conser- vative	Labour	Liberal Democrat
Unweighted base	1506	137	64	174	136	123	111	73	155	164	228	141	333	412	82	226	419	308	291
Weighted base	1509	135	65	166	144	133	109	73	163	170	214	137	334	422	83	225	419	325	281
Would change mind (any oppose)	628 42%	56 41%	35 54%	76 45%	47 33%	56 42%	50 46%	30 41%	53 33%	72 43%	99 46%	54 39%	133 40%	206 49%	34 41%	85 38%	153 36%	164 50%	117 42%
Would not change mind (none)	881 58%	79 59%	30 46%	91 55%	97 67%	77 58%	59 54%	43 59%	110 67%	97 57%	115 54%	83 61%	201 60%	216 51%	49 59%	139 62%	266 64%	162 50%	163 58%

