



Doctor Assisted Suicide

Alberta Public Opinion Study – Fall 2014

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Methodology

-  **Population** The province of Alberta has a total population of 4,121,700 residents (Statistics Canada, July 1, 2014) approximately 78% of which are 18 years of age or older, for an adult population of approximately 3,227,291.
-  **Sample** Data were collected by Lethbridge College students enrolled in a variety of Liberal Arts courses in the fall of 2014. Students interviewed 564 adult Alberta residents by telephone from October 4 to 9, 2014 under the supervision of Liberal Arts faculty member Dr. Faron Ellis. Telephone numbers were selected from a sample drawn from InfoGroup directories. We sincerely thank all participants who took time out of their day to respond to our inquiries. Further results from this study and results from past studies can be accessed by visiting the CSRL web pages at: www.lethbridgecollege.ca/go/csrl
-  **Representativeness** Analysis of the demographic data indicates that, within acceptable limits, the sample accurately represents the demographic distribution of the adult population within the province of Alberta. The sample has been statistically weighted where necessary to even better reflect the demographic distribution of the population (gender and age).
-  **Confidence** The weighted sample yields a margin of error of ± 4.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error increases to approximately ± 8.3 percentage points when analyzing each of the roughly equal regional subsamples (Calgary, Edmonton-metro, south excluding Calgary, and north excluding Edmonton-metro).
-  **IB Commons Call Centre** Students conducted interviews using the facilities of the Lethbridge College IB Commons Call Centre with applications assembled by members of Lethbridge College's IT team. We sincerely thank Lethbridge College IT and other supporting divisions for their service to our activities.
-  **Applied Research at Lethbridge College** This study is the results of the research efforts of over 60 Liberal Arts students enrolled in Social Science Research Methods, Introduction to Politics, Canadian Government, Environmental Issues, and Social Psychology under the supervision of Lethbridge College faculty members; Dr. Faron Ellis, Marda Schindeler, Dr. Jennifer Davis, and Kelly Oikawa.
-  **Sponsorship** These data are part of a larger study of the opinions and attitudes of Alberta residents conducted by the Citizen Society Research Lab at Lethbridge College. This particular set of questions resulted from the ongoing research interests of Lethbridge College faculty and students.

Legalize doctor-assisted suicide by demographic group (2014) (%)

A strong majority of Albertans (77.7%) support the terminally ill having legal access to doctor assisted suicide. Majorities in almost all demographic groups are supportive. Religion is the only demographic characteristic that significantly impacts opinion on this issue with the very religious slightly more opposed (53.3%) than supportive (46.7%). Support for abortion choice climbs to 90.2% amongst the non-religious.

No significant opinion differences are measured between regions, genders, income or education groups, or between partisans of the various federal and provincial political parties.

Region	Calgary	Edmonton	North	South	Alberta
Agree	81.1	78.6	77.2	73.9	77.7
Disagree	18.9	21.4	22.8	26.1	22.3

Gender	Male	Female	All Albertans
Agree	78.3	76.8	77.7
Disagree	21.7	23.2	22.3

Household Income	Under \$60,000	\$60,000 to \$120,000	Over \$120,000
Agree	72.7	82.8	79.5
Disagree	27.3	17.2	20.5

Religious Participation*	2-3 times/month-more	Several times/year	Rarely-never
Agree	46.7	80.7	90.2
Disagree	53.3	19.3	9.8

Education	High School or less	Some Post-secondary	College-Tech-Trade	University Grad
Agree	72.6	74.5	82.2	80.5
Disagree	27.4	25.5	17.8	19.5

Age	18-29	30-44	45-64	65 and older
Agree	71.4	86.2	82.4	69.0
Disagree	28.6	13.8	17.6	31.0

Provincial Vote	PC	Wildrose	Liberal	NDP	Undecided
Agree	73.5	79.4	81.5	81.2	77.3
Disagree	26.5	20.6	18.5	18.8	22.7

Federal Vote	Conservative	Liberal	NDP	Green	Undecided
Agree	71.6	92.0	79.6	76.0	75.8
Disagree	28.4	8.0	20.4	24.0	24.2

Notes: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%; * sig < 0.05

Demographics

Area of Province (%)		Gender (%)		Income (%)		Education (%)		Age (%)	
Calgary	24.5	Male	49.9	Under \$60,000	30.3	H-School/less	22.9	18-29	22.8
Edmonton	23.9	Female	50.1	\$60-120,000	35.7	Some P-Sec.	20.4	30-44	22.1
North	25.0			Over \$120,000	34.0	Col-Tech-Grad	25.0	45-64	32.5
South	26.5					University Grad	31.7	65 or older	22.6

Mean age = 48 years old

Religious Participation (%)	
2-3/month-more	24.7
Several/year	23.3
Rarely-never	52.0

Note: Due to rounding, proportions may not total exactly 100%

Questions

People with terminal illnesses should be allowed to legally access doctor assisted suicides.

- Strongly Agree – Somewhat Agree – Somewhat Disagree – Strongly Disagree