

Leger

IN COLLABORATION WITH



POSTMEDIA-LEGER POLL

Report

Medical Assistance in Dying- MAID

December 2022

DATE 12/20/2022 PROJECT NUMBER 82823-004/5

Leger

We know Canadians



METHODOLOGY

Methodology



Web survey using computer-assisted Web interviewing (CAWI) technology.



From December 9-11, 2022



1526 Canadian residents, 18 years of age or older, randomly recruited from LEO's online panel.



Using data from the 2021 Census, results were weighted according to region, age and gender within Canada, as well as by education and presence of children in the household in order to ensure a representative sample of the population.



For comparison purposes, a probability sample of 1526 respondents would have a margin of error of $\pm 2.5\%$, 19 times out of 20.

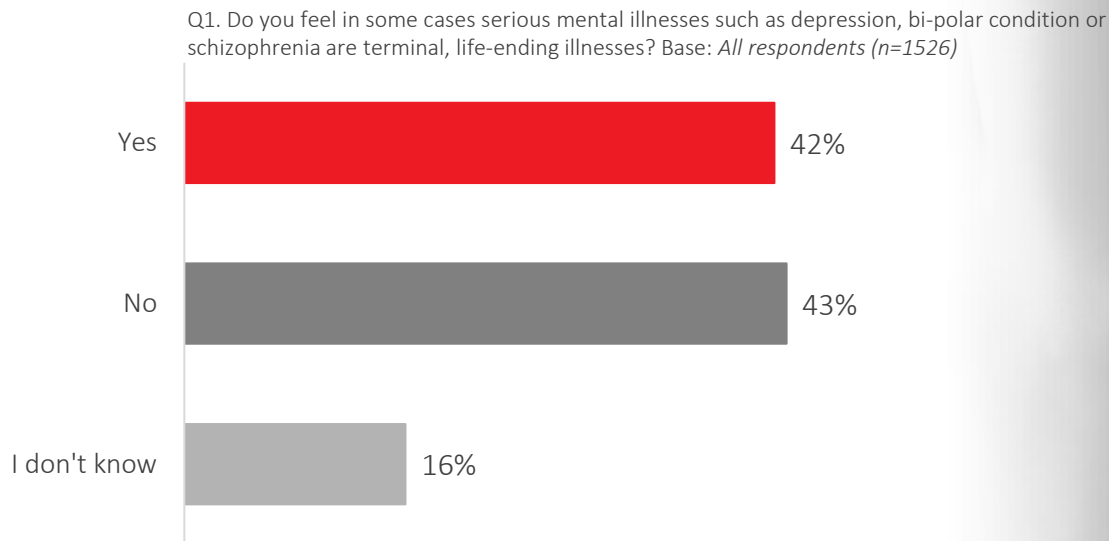
The research results presented here are in full compliance with the CRIC Public Opinion Research Standards and Disclosure Requirements. For additional information regarding this poll please contact Andrew Enns with Leger at aenns@leger360.com

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a person's hands covering their face. The fingers are spread, and the hands are positioned over the eyes and nose, suggesting a state of distress, grief, or despair. The background is blurred, focusing attention on the hands and the implied emotional state.

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

Canadians are split as to whether or not some serious mental illnesses might be considered life-ending illnesses, with just over four-in-ten each saying 'yes they are' or 'no they are not'.

As seen on the following slide, younger Canadians (aged 18-34 vs. 35+) and Quebecers (vs. those in the rest of Canada) are significantly more likely to be in agreement that in some cases, serious mental illnesses such as depression, bi-polar condition or schizophrenia are terminal, life-ending illnesses. Men (vs. women) are significantly more likely to disagree with this sentiment.



Demographic breakdown of belief that some serious mental illnesses can be terminal, life-ending illnesses.

Q1. Do you feel in some cases serious mental illnesses such as depression, bi-polar condition or schizophrenia are terminal, life-ending illnesses? Base: *All respondents (n=1526)*

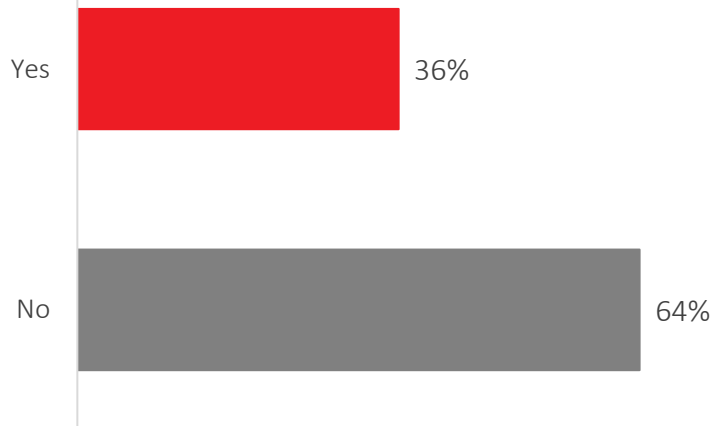
| | Gender | | | Age | | | Childhood Household Religion | | Region | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|------|--------|-------|-------|-----|------------------------------|---------------|--------|---------|-------|---------|--------|-----------------|
| | Total | Male | Female | 18-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | Christian | Non-Christian | BC | Alberta | MB/SK | Ontario | Quebec | Atlantic Canada |
| n= | 1526 | 762 | 764 | 401 | 558 | 567 | 846 | 591 | 162 | 129 | 125 | 602 | 408 | 100 |
| Yes | 42% | 39% | 45% | 51% | 40% | 37% | 41% | 44% | 31% | 46% | 44% | 40% | 48% | 42% |
| No | 43% | 46% | 40% | 38% | 45% | 44% | 43% | 41% | 56% | 38% | 43% | 44% | 37% | 33% |
| I don't know | 16% | 15% | 16% | 11% | 15% | 19% | 16% | 15% | 13% | 17% | 13% | 15% | 15% | 25% |

Almost two-thirds (64%) of Canadians are unaware of the upcoming changes to the law that will allow people suffering from mental illnesses, such as depression, being bi-polar or schizophrenia to be able to choose to end their life through medical assistance in dying (MAID).

As seen on the following slide, Canadians aged 55+ are significantly more likely to be aware of the change in the law, while Quebecers are least likely to be familiar with it.

Q2. Are you aware that in 4 months—March 2023—the Government of Canada will change the law to allow people suffering from mental illnesses, such as depression, being bi-polar or schizophrenia to be able to choose to end their life through medical assistance in dying?

Base: All respondents (n=1526)



Demographic breakdown of awareness in the changes to the law around MAID.

Quebec residents are most supportive of extending MAID to mental illnesses yet least aware of the upcoming change

Q2. Are you aware that in 4 months—March 2023—the Government of Canada will change the law to allow people suffering from mental illnesses, such as depression, being bi-polar or schizophrenia to be able to choose to end their life through medical assistance in dying?

Base: All respondents (n=1526)

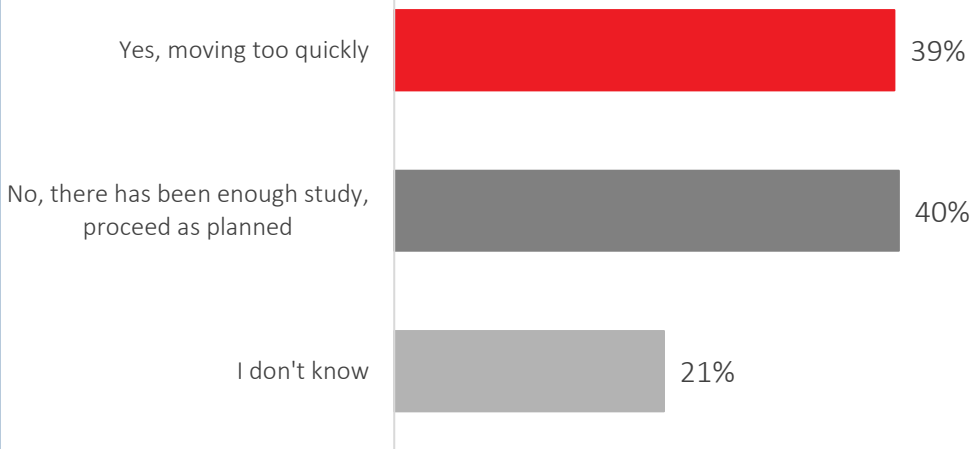
| | | Gender | | Age | | | Childhood Household Religion | | Region | | | | | | |
|-----|--|--------|------|--------|-------|-------|------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----|---------|-------|---------|--------|-----------------|
| | | Total | Male | Female | 18-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | Christian | Non-Christian | BC | Alberta | MB/SK | Ontario | Quebec | Atlantic Canada |
| n= | | 1526 | 762 | 764 | 401 | 558 | 567 | 846 | 591 | 162 | 129 | 125 | 602 | 408 | 100 |
| Yes | | 36% | 38% | 35% | 33% | 31% | 42% | 37% | 37% | 36% | 50% | 38% | 40% | 23% | 36% |
| No | | 64% | 62% | 65% | 67% | 69% | 58% | 63% | 63% | 64% | 50% | 62% | 60% | 77% | 64% |

Again, there are equal numbers of Canadians who feel the changes coming into effect that will expand MAID should be delayed as they are moving too quickly vs. those who feel there has been enough study to move ahead as planned.

Four-in-ten believe this upcoming change to Medical assistance in dying (MAID) for people with a terminal illness to include those suffering from mental illness is moving too quickly (39%) and that there has been enough study to proceed as planned (40%), with an additional 21% unsure. Those who believe some serious mental illnesses can be life-ending, terminal illnesses are significantly more likely to say 'go ahead' (49% vs. 33% who do not believe they are).

Q3. Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) for people with a terminal illness, such as incurable cancer, has been legal in Canada since 2015. Thinking about the changes coming into effect in March 2023 that will expand MAID access to those suffering with mental illnesses, do you think this is moving too quickly and should be delayed for further consideration?

Base: All respondents (n=1526)



Demographic breakdown regarding delaying expansion of MAID to include those with a serious mental illness – religion plays a role here with those who feel the law is moving too quickly – the belief is significantly higher among those with a Christian upbringing vs. another religion/no religion.

Q3. Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) for people with a terminal illness, such as incurable cancer, has been legal in Canada since 2015. Thinking about the changes coming into effect in March 2023 that will expand MAID access to those suffering with mental illnesses, do you think this is moving too quickly and should be delayed for further consideration?

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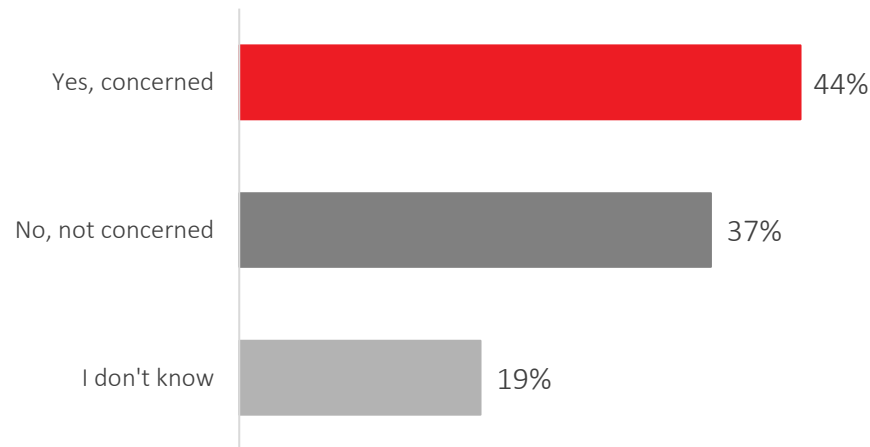
| | | Gender | | Age | | | Childhood Household Religion | | Region | | | | | | |
|---|----|--------|------|--------|-------|-------|------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----|---------|-------|---------|--------|-----------------|
| | | Total | Male | Female | 18-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | Christian | Non-Christian | BC | Alberta | MB/SK | Ontario | Quebec | Atlantic Canada |
| | n= | 1526 | 762 | 764 | 401 | 558 | 567 | 846 | 591 | 162 | 129 | 125 | 602 | 408 | 100 |
| Yes, moving too quickly | | 39% | 36% | 43% | 39% | 40% | 39% | 44% | 34% | 34% | 43% | 50% | 43% | 31% | 41% |
| No, there has been enough study, proceed as planned | | 40% | 43% | 37% | 36% | 38% | 43% | 38% | 42% | 42% | 41% | 25% | 33% | 50% | 44% |
| I don't know | | 21% | 22% | 21% | 24% | 22% | 19% | 18% | 24% | 24% | 16% | 25% | 24% | 18% | 15% |

More than four-in-ten express that recent events associated with the MAID law in Canada cause them concern about future, further changes to MAID qualifications.

More than four-in-ten (44%) are concerned about the MAID law in the future after complaints by military veterans and doctors who expressed support for MAID to be used for infants under age one, especially those who grew up in a Christian household and regionally, those in Alberta, the Prairies, and Ontario.

Q4. Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) has been in the news lately. The RCMP are investigating complaints raised by several military veterans with post-traumatic stress who say they are being counseled to consider MAID as a medical option by a Veterans Affairs Canada. And about a month ago, the Quebec College of Physicians said they felt it was legitimate to use medical assistance in dying for infants up to the age of one who have severe health complications. Do these recent issues associated with the Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) law in Canada concern you about future, further changes to MAID qualifications?

Base: All respondents (n=1526)



Demographic breakdown regarding concern over future changes to MAID after recent issues associated with the Medical Assistance in Dying law.

Q4. Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) has been in the news lately. The RCMP are investigating complaints raised by several military veterans with post-traumatic stress who say they are being counseled to consider MAID as a medical option by a Veterans Affairs Canada. And about a month ago, the Quebec College of Physicians said they felt it was legitimate to use medical assistance in dying for infants up to the age of one who have severe health complications. Do these recent issues associated with the Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) law in Canada concern you about future, further changes to MAID qualifications?

Base: All respondents (n=1526)

| | | Gender | | Age | | | Childhood Household Religion | | Region | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--------|------|--------|-------|-------|------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----|---------|-------|---------|--------|-----------------|
| | | Total | Male | Female | 18-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | Christian | Non-Christian | BC | Alberta | MB/SK | Ontario | Quebec | Atlantic Canada |
| n= | | 1526 | 762 | 764 | 401 | 558 | 567 | 846 | 591 | 162 | 129 | 125 | 602 | 408 | 100 |
| Yes, concerned | | 44% | 41% | 47% | 43% | 44% | 45% | 49% | 39% | 35% | 52% | 55% | 50% | 33% | 42% |
| No, not concerned | | 37% | 42% | 33% | 36% | 37% | 38% | 34% | 43% | 48% | 37% | 20% | 29% | 48% | 38% |
| I don't know | | 19% | 17% | 21% | 22% | 19% | 17% | 17% | 19% | 17% | 11% | 25% | 20% | 20% | 20% |

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