

# Ipsos Assisted dying polling

October 2024



**The below information was given to respondents before they answered the questions in this survey.**

The next few questions are about assisted dying in the UK.

Assisted dying refers to a patient aged 18 or over being provided with life-ending medication if at least two doctors think that all the following conditions were met:

- The patient would need to be of sound mind,
- The patient would be terminally ill and it is believed that they have 6 months or less to live,
- The patient would have made a voluntary, clear and settled decision to end their life (and made and signed a declaration to that effect in the presence of a witness), with time to consider all other options,
- The patient has been resident in the country for at least a year,
- The High Court confirms it is satisfied that these conditions have been met,
- If the conditions are met, a health professional may help to prepare and assist with the medication, but the decision to self-administer the medicine and the final act of doing so must be taken by the patient themselves.

Assisted dying is not currently legal in the UK.

# Should it be legal for a doctor to assist a terminally ill patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication?

Do you think it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient aged 18 or over in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient can take themselves, if all the conditions for assisted dying outlined above are met?\*

**Yes, it should be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves**

**No, it should not be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves**

**October 2024**



**July 2023**



**Base: 1,130** Online U.K. adults aged 16-75, 1-2 October 2024. \* Visit the Ipsos website to see information given to respondents about assisted dying before they answered this question (Slide 2).



# Should it be legal for a doctor to assist a terminally ill patient in ending their life by administering life-ending medication?

Do you think it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient aged 18 or over in ending their life, by the doctor administering life-ending medication, assuming that the other conditions for assisted dying outlined above are met?\*

**Yes, it should be legal for a doctor to administer life-ending medication**

**No, it should not be legal for a doctor to administer life-ending medication**

**October 2024**



**July 2023**



**Base:** 1,130 Online U.K. adults aged 16-75, 1-2 October 2024. \* Visit the Ipsos website to see information given to respondents about assisted dying before they answered this question (Slide 2).



# Should it be legal for a doctor to assist a not terminally ill patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication if they are...?

Do you think that it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient (aged 18 or over in ending their life, if they are **not terminally ill**, but are **physically suffering** in a way that the patient finds unbearable and which cannot be cured or improved with existing medical science, and where the patient has expressed a clear desire to end their life? Assume that the other conditions for assisted dying outlined above are met.

And do you think it should be legal or not for a doctor to assist a patient aged 18 or over in ending their life, if they are **not terminally ill**, but are **mentally or emotionally suffering** in a way that the patient finds unbearable and which cannot be cured or improved with existing medical science, and where the patient has expressed a clear desire to end their life? Assume that the other conditions for assisted dying outlined above are met.\*

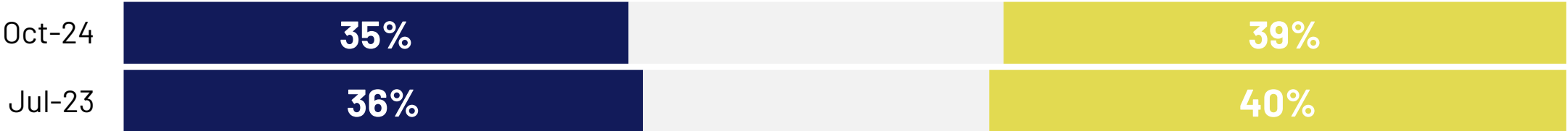
**Yes, it should be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves**

**No, it should not be legal for a doctor to assist a patient in ending their life by prescribing life-ending medication that the patient could take themselves**

## If they are physically suffering



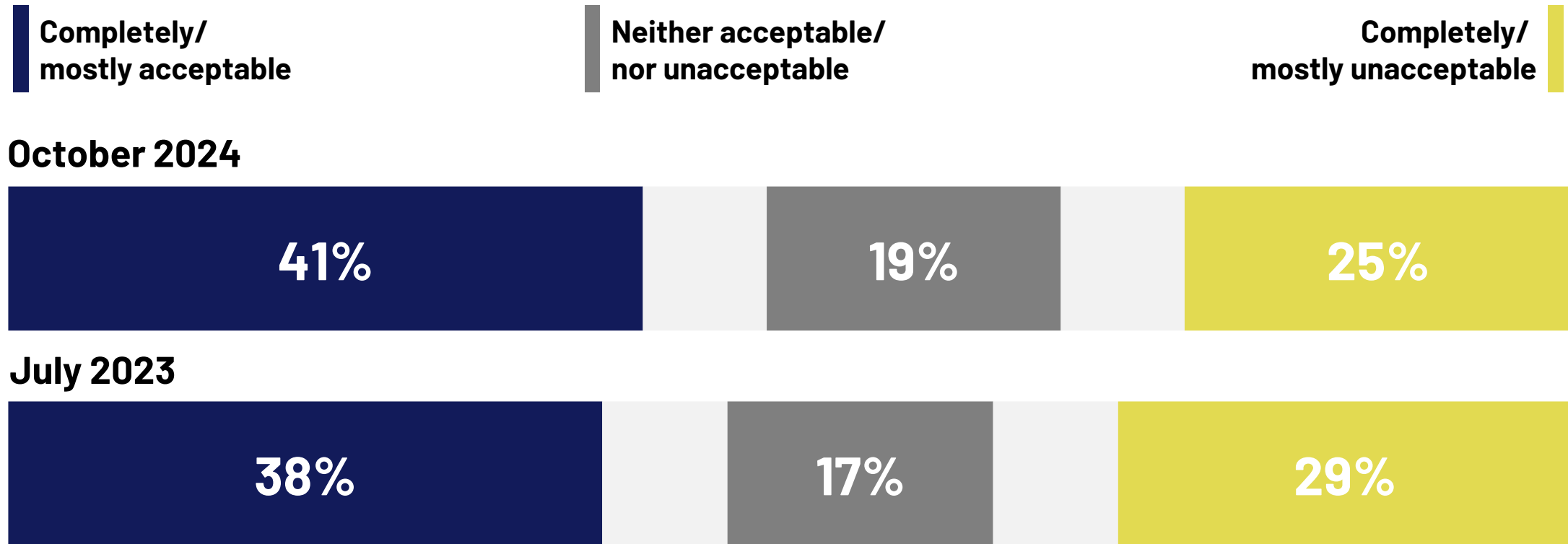
## If they are mentally or emotionally suffering



Base: 1,130 Online U.K. adults aged 18-75, 1-2 October 2024. \* Visit the Ipsos website to see information given to respondents about assisted dying before they answered this question (Slide 2).

# How acceptable is it to break the law to assist someone to die?

To remind you, at the moment assisted dying is not legal in the UK. Euthanasia is illegal across the UK and could be prosecuted as murder or manslaughter\*. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, assisting a suicide is also a crime. How acceptable or unacceptable do you think it is for someone in England, Wales or Northern Ireland to break the law to assist someone they know who wanted to die?\*\*



**Base: 1,130** Online U.K. adults aged 18-75, 1-2 October 2024. \*<https://www.bma.org.uk/media/4400/bma-pad-map-and-uk-legislative-proposals-aug-2021.pdf> \*\* Visit the Ipsos website to see information given to respondents about assisted dying before they answered this question (Slide 2).



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**For more information**

**Gideon Skinner**

Research Director

[gideon.skinner@ipsos.com](mailto:gideon.skinner@ipsos.com)

**Jordana Moser**

Research Director

[jordana.moser@ipsos.com](mailto:jordana.moser@ipsos.com)

**Keiran Pedley**

Research Director

[keiran.pedley@ipsos.com](mailto:keiran.pedley@ipsos.com)

**Ben Roff**

Senior Research Executive

[ben.roff@ipsos.com](mailto:ben.roff@ipsos.com)