Research New Zealand Survey October 2016: “Should Euthanasia be legalised in New Zealand?” Testing Claims

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|  | **Claim** | **Type** | **Sample Size** | **Margin of Error** | **Confidence Interval and Judgement** |
| **1** | **Table1:** In October 2016 almost $\frac{2}{3}$ of New Zealanders agree that doctors should be allowed by law to end a terminally ill patient’s life if the patients request it. (Q1) | **No****Comparison** | 501 | 4.5% | 65% ±4.5% = [60.5%, 69.5%]With 95% confidence we can infer that the % of NZers who agree a doctor can end the life of a terminally patient is somewhere between 60.5% and 69.5%Hence the claim of almost $\frac{2}{3}$ is not supported.Better to say “At least 60% of NZers agree…” |
| **2** | **Table 2:** A higher % of New Zealanders disagree than agree that other people, such as close relatives, should be allowed to help a terminally ill patient to end their life if they request it. (Q2) | **Comparison****1 group** | 501 | MoE diff=4.5 × 2= 9 % | Difference = 3p.pts CI: [-6ppts, 12 p.pts]With 95% confidence we can infer that the difference in % of NZers who disagree compared to agree that a close relative can assist a terminally ill patient to end their life is somewhere between -6 p.pts and 12 p.pts Claim NOT supported since lower limit is negative indicating a higher % may agree than disagree. |
| **3** | **Table 6:** New Zealanders with a bachelor degree or higher are less likely to agree that a doctor be allowed to end a terminally patients life than those with a secondary school qualification. (Q1) | **Comparison****2 groups** | 167 Bach.Degree147Sec. Qual | AV MoE = 8%1.5 ×8 = 12% | Difference = 68-55 = 13 p. pts CI: [1ppts, 25p.pts]With 95% confidence we can infer that the difference in the % of NZers with a bachelor degree and % with a secondary qualification who agree that a doctor can end the life of a terminally patient is somewhere between 1p.pts and 25 p.pts.  Claim IS supported since both limits positive. |
| **4** | **Table 11:** Someone with no qualifications is more likely to agree than disagree that a close relative can assist a terminally ill patient to end their life if the patient wishes it. (Q2) | **Comparison****1 group** | 58 | MoE diff$\frac{1}{\sqrt{58}}$ × 2×100%= 26.3% | Difference = 58-36 = 22 p. pts CI: [-4.3ppts, 48.3p.pts]With 95% confidence we can infer that the difference in % of NZers with no qualification who agree compared to disagree that a close relative can assist a terminally ill patient to end their life is somewhere between -4.3p.pts and 48.3 p.pts. Claim NOT supported since lower limit is negative indicating a higher % may disagree than agree. |
|  | **Claim** | **Type** | **Sample Size** | **Margin of Error** | **Confidence Interval and Judgement** |
| **5** | **Table 1:** There was a reduction in support for doctors assisting terminally patients to end their life in October 2016 compared to June/July 2015. (Q1) | **Comparison****2 groups** | 20155002016501 | Av MoE × 1.5= 6.7% | Difference: 67-65 = 2 p. ptsWith 95% confidence we can infer that the difference in % support for doctors assisting terminally ill patients to end their life in 2016 compared to 2015 is somewhere between -4.7 p. pts and 8.7 p.pts.Since lower limit is negative, claim is NOT supported. Support could have been higher in 2016, not lower. |
| **6** | **Table 4:** Older people aged 55+ were more likely to agree that a doctor can assist a terminally ill patient to end their life than those aged 18-34 (Q1) | **Comparison****2 groups** | 55+31118-3461 | Av MoE × 1.5($\frac{1}{\sqrt{311}}$+$\frac{1}{\sqrt{61}}$)÷2= 0.09240.0924 $×1.5×100\%=$13.9% | Difference =67-61 = 6 p.ptsWith 95% confidence we can infer that the difference in % support for doctors assisting terminally ill patients to end their life among people aged 55+ compared to people aged 18-34 is somewhere between -7.9 p. pts and 19.9 p.pts.Since lower limit is negative, claim is NOT supported. Support from 55+ group could be lower than in 18-34 group. |
| **7** | **Table 12:** Maori are more likely to agree that someone else, such as a close relative, should be legally allowed to end a terminally ill patient’s life if they request it, than a NZ European. (Q2) | **Comparison****2 groups** | NZ Euro381Maori63 | Av MoE × 1.5($\frac{1}{\sqrt{381}}$+$\frac{1}{\sqrt{63}}$)÷2= 0.08860.0886 $×1.5×100\%=$13.3% | Difference =53-40 = 13 p.ptsWith 95% confidence we can infer that the difference in % support for close relatives assisting terminally ill patients to end their life among Maori compared to NZ Europeans is somewhere between -0.3 p. pts and 26.3 p.pts.Since lower limit is negative, claim is NOT supported. Support from NZ Europeans could be higher than Maori. |
| 8 | **Table 11:** The majority of people with no qualifications agree that a close relative can legally end a terminally ill person’s life if the person requests it. (Q2) | **No****Comparison** | 58 | 13.1% |  58% ± 13.1% = [44.9%, 71.1%]With 95% confidence we can infer that the % of people with no qualifications who agree that a close relative may assist a terminally patient to end their life is somewhere between 44.9% and 71.1%Claim NOT supported. Lower limit is less than 50%. |