



**NUFFIELD
COUNCIL ON
BIOETHICS**

Citizens' Jury:

Exploring public views on assisted dying

Summary recruitment data

Recruitment process

34 Citizens' Jury¹ members were recruited using a stratified sampling method which creates a mini-public broadly representative of the national population of England. This is a civic lottery method called 'sortition'. The process was delivered by [The Sortition Foundation](#).

Recruitment criteria

Target numbers were set for key demographics (age, gender, ethnicity, education level, disability, region of England, and location rating on the scale of multiple deprivation) all based on Office for National Statistics Census Data (ONS 2021). The Nuffield Council on Bioethics' nationally representative survey of 2,000 people from the English population, conducted in February 2024 (Q: To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree that assisted dying should be legal in England?), was the data used to set target numbers for attitudes towards assisted dying.

Since the number of participants in a Jury is relatively small, target numbers for recruitment criteria were set instead of strict quotas. A minimum target was set for ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and attitudes towards assisted dying to ensure no under representation of minority views.

The following table shows how the 34 Jury members compares to the England population. Of the 34, four withdrew before the Jury process began, so that 30 Jury members took part in all sessions until the final workshop. Two Jury members were unwell for the final in-person session, so that 28 Jury members were present by the end of the process.

The full details of the survey will be published, along with the full qualitative analysis of the Citizens' Jury findings, with the second project report in early 2025.

¹ The Citizens' Jury exploring public views on assisted dying in England was conducted from April to June 2024. It was commissioned by the [Nuffield Council on Bioethics](#) and designed and facilitated by [Hopkins Van Mil](#).

Criteria	Population %	Target %	Citizen Jury % & number 34 participants	Citizens' Jury numbers (final workshop) number 28 participants
Demographics: source - Office for National Statistics (ONS) Census (2021) data				
Gender				
Female	51.0	51.0	50 (17)	15
Male	49.0	49.0	47.1 (16)	12
Non-binary or other	0.2	0.2	2.9 (1)	1
Age				
18-24	10.5	10.5	11.8 (4)	2
25-34	17.1	17.1	14.7 (5)	3
35-44	16.5	16.5	14.7 (5)	3
45-54	16.7	16.7	17.6 (6)	6
55-64	15.9	15.9	17.6 (6)	6
65-74	13.8	13.8	14.7 (5)	5
75+	9.8	9.8	8.8 (3)	3
Ethnicity				
Asian or Asian British	9.6	9.6	8.8 (3)	3
Black or African or Caribbean or Black British	4.2	4.2	8.8 (3)	3
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	3.0	3.0	5.9 (2)	0
White British	73.5	73.5	64.7 (22)	20
White Other	7.5	7.5	8.8 (3)	1
Other ethnic group	2.2	2.2	2.9 (1)	1
Disability				
Yes – limited a lot	7.3	7.3	5.9 (2)	0
Yes – limited a little	16.8	16.8	17.6 (6)	4
No	75.9	75.9	76.5 (26)	24
Education				
No qualification / none yet	18.1	18.1	11.8 (4)	4
Level 1	9.7	9.7	8.8 (3)	2
Level 2	13.3	13.3	11.8 (4)	3
Level 3, Apprenticeship, Other	25.0	25.0	26.5 (9)	8
Level 4 and above	33.9	33.9	41.2 (14)	11
Regions				
North East	4.7	4.7	8.8 (3)	2
North West	13.1	13.1	11.8 (4)	4
Yorkshire and The Humber	9.7	9.7	8.8 (3)	2
East Midlands	8.6	8.6	14.7 (5)	5
West Midlands	10.5	10.5	8.8 (3)	1
East of England	11.2	11.2	8.8 (3)	2
London	15.6	15.6	14.7 (5)	4
South East	16.4	16.4	11.8 (4)	4
South West	10.1	10.1	11.8 (4)	4
Indices of Multiple Deprivation				
1-2	20	20	17.6 (6)	5
3-4	20	20	23.5 (8)	4
5-6	20	20	17.6 (6)	5
7-8	20	20	23.5 (8)	8
9-10	20	20	17.6 (6)	6

Criteria	Population %	Target %	Citizen Jury % & number 34 participants	Citizens' Jury numbers (final workshop) number 28 participants*
Attitudes towards assisted dying (Source: NCOB survey Feb 2024. Q: To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree that assisted dying** should be legal in England?)				
Strongly disagree	7.1 (rounded to 7%)	7.1	8.8 (3)	2
Somewhat disagree	7.5 (rounded to 8%)	7.5	8.8 (3)	3
Neither agree nor disagree	11.8 (rounded to 12%)	11.8	11.8 (4)	4
Somewhat agree	34.6 (rounded to 35%)	34.6	35.3 (11)	7
Strongly agree	34.4 (rounded to 34%)	34.4	29.4 (11)	10
Don't know	4.6 (rounded to 5%)	4.6	5.9 (2)	2

* The figures in this column express how members responded to this question as they began the Jury process. They do not express the final outcome of the vote on this question which is set out in the [interim report of the Citizens' Jury](#), published in September 2024.

** Survey respondents were provided with the following context and definitions:

Many different terms are used when discussing assisted dying and people do not always agree on the terminology. Please read the definitions below to help you answer the survey questions.

Assisted dying: *The involvement of healthcare professionals in providing lethal drugs intended to end a patient's life at their voluntary request, subject to a set of conditions. This covers:*

- *Healthcare professionals prescribing lethal drugs to eligible patients to take themselves. This is sometimes referred to as 'physician-assisted dying' or 'physician-assisted suicide'.*
- *Healthcare professionals administering lethal drugs to eligible patients with the intention of ending that patient's life. This is sometimes referred to as '(voluntary) euthanasia'.*

The law: *Assisted dying is not legal in England.*