



# Views on St. Boniface Hospital's Assisted Dying Policy

## Summer 2017 Probe Online Omnibus Report

This online survey was designed, programmed and hosted by Probe Research Inc. using a web-based survey platform. A total of 619 Winnipeg adults from the Probe Research proprietary general population panel completed the survey between Aug. 8 and Aug. 20, 2017.

Because an online survey is a sample of convenience, no margin-of-error can be ascribed. However, a random and representative non-convenience sample of 619 adults would have a margin of error of  $\pm 3.9$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Minor statistical weighting was conducted to ensure that the sample of respondents closely reflects known demographic characteristics of the entire adult population of Winnipeg.

For more information on this research project, please contact:

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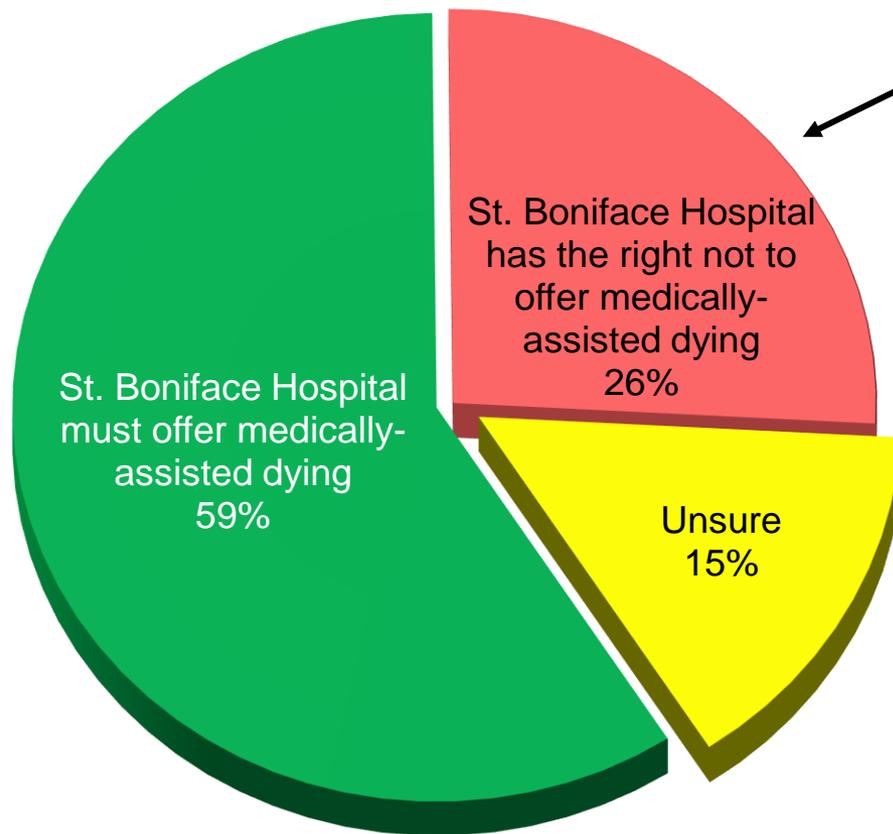
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# Key Findings

- A significant majority of Winnipeg adults – 59% – insist St. Boniface Hospital must offer medically-assisted dying to patients requesting this service, regardless of the hospital’s religious affiliation. One-quarter of those surveyed, however, believe the hospital should have the right to refuse this procedure based on religious grounds.
- These strong views did not appear to influence where Winnipeggers would choose to be treated for a serious illness or accident. Two-thirds of Winnipeg adults said St. Boniface’s policy would **not** deter them from seeking treatment at this hospital – they would go wherever doctors or paramedics recommended. Only a small proportion of Winnipeggers – 17% – would avoid seeking treatment at St. Boniface due to the hospital’s unwillingness to offer assisted death.
- There were no statistically significant differences in views among various demographic subgroups, such as gender, age or education. However, those with some form of religious affiliation were more likely to feel St. Boniface should have the right to refuse to offer medically-assisted death.

# Views on St. Boniface Hospital's Assisted Dying Policy

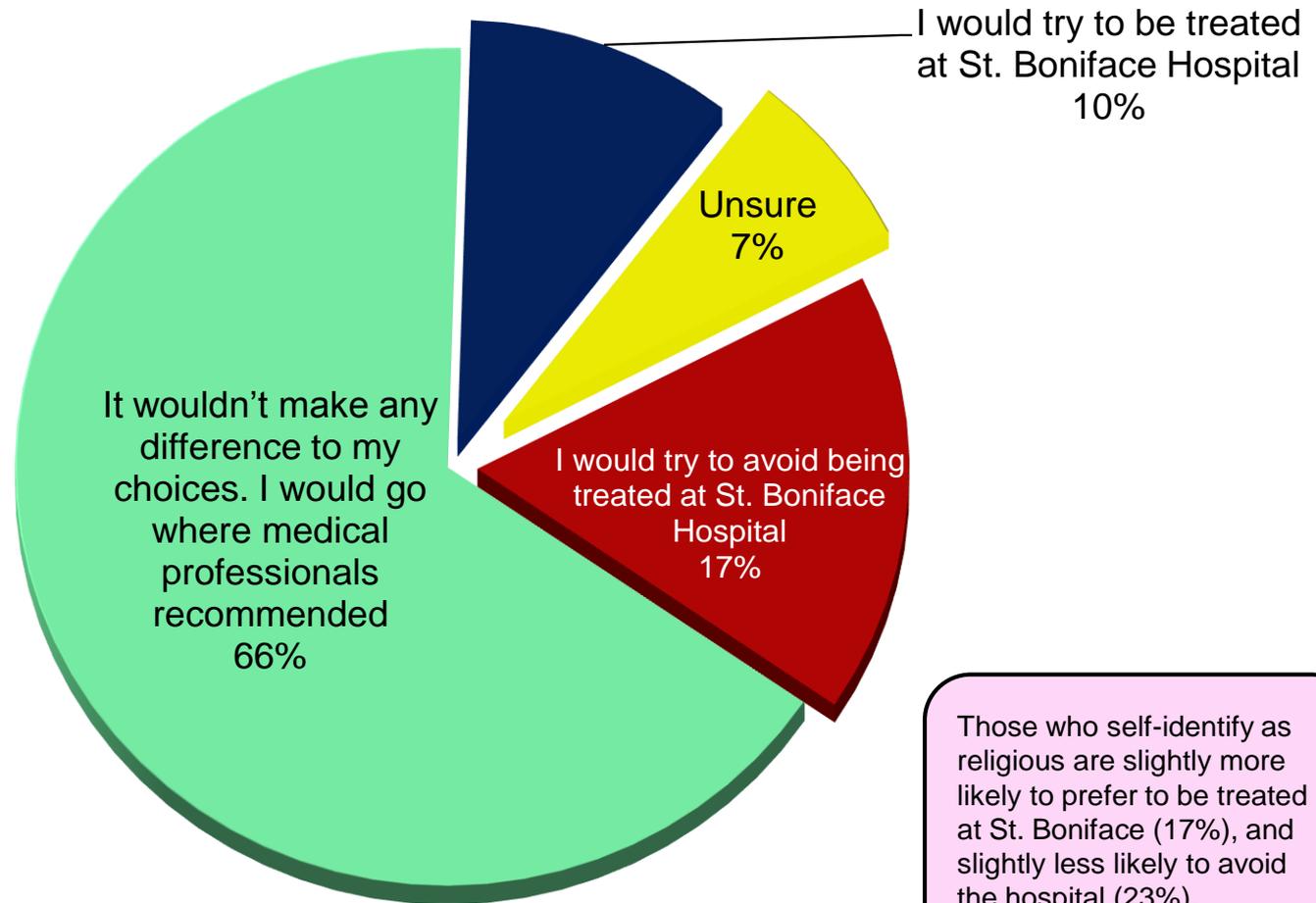
**Q.1** “Recently, there’s been some debate about whether St. Boniface Hospital should offer medically-assisted dying to patients who request it. Some people say a Catholic hospital has the right to refuse to offer medically-assisted dying on religious grounds. Other people say a publicly-funded hospital must provide all legal medical services to patients who request it, regardless of whether it is a faith-based hospital or not. Which one is best reflects your own views?” (n=619)



Those who self-identify as religious are more likely to believe St. Boniface Hospital has the right **not** to offer assisted dying (48%) compared to those who are not religious (13%).

# Views on Hospital Preference

**Q.1** "If you had a serious illness or accident, how likely would you be to avoid seeking treatment at St. Boniface Hospital, knowing the hospital does not allow medically-assisted dying?" (n=619)



Those who self-identify as religious are slightly more likely to prefer to be treated at St. Boniface (17%), and slightly less likely to avoid the hospital (23%).