

SOCIAL RESEARCH NUMBER:

07/2016

PUBLICATION DATE:

01/02/2016

Update to Survey of Public Attitudes to Organ Donation: Key figures from Wave 10

Update Report

Background

The Human Transplantation (Wales) Act received Royal Assent on 10 September 2013. The Act introduces a soft opt-out system for consent to deceased organ and tissue donation in Wales, which came into effect on 1 December 2015.

A communications campaign was undertaken by the Welsh Government before the new system came into effect to ensure members of the public are fully informed about what the changes mean and the choices they can make. In order to monitor the effectiveness of the campaign and inform its development, regular information is required on public awareness and understanding of organ donation law, and attitudes to changes in the legislation in Wales.

To meet these research needs, the Welsh Government has commissioned questions in the Wales Omnibus Survey, conducted by Beaufort Research Ltd. Data are being collected at regular intervals between June 2012 and June 2016 and reports on these data are published at six monthly intervals, in June and December each year. The latest report, on waves 8 and 9, was published on 1st December 2015.

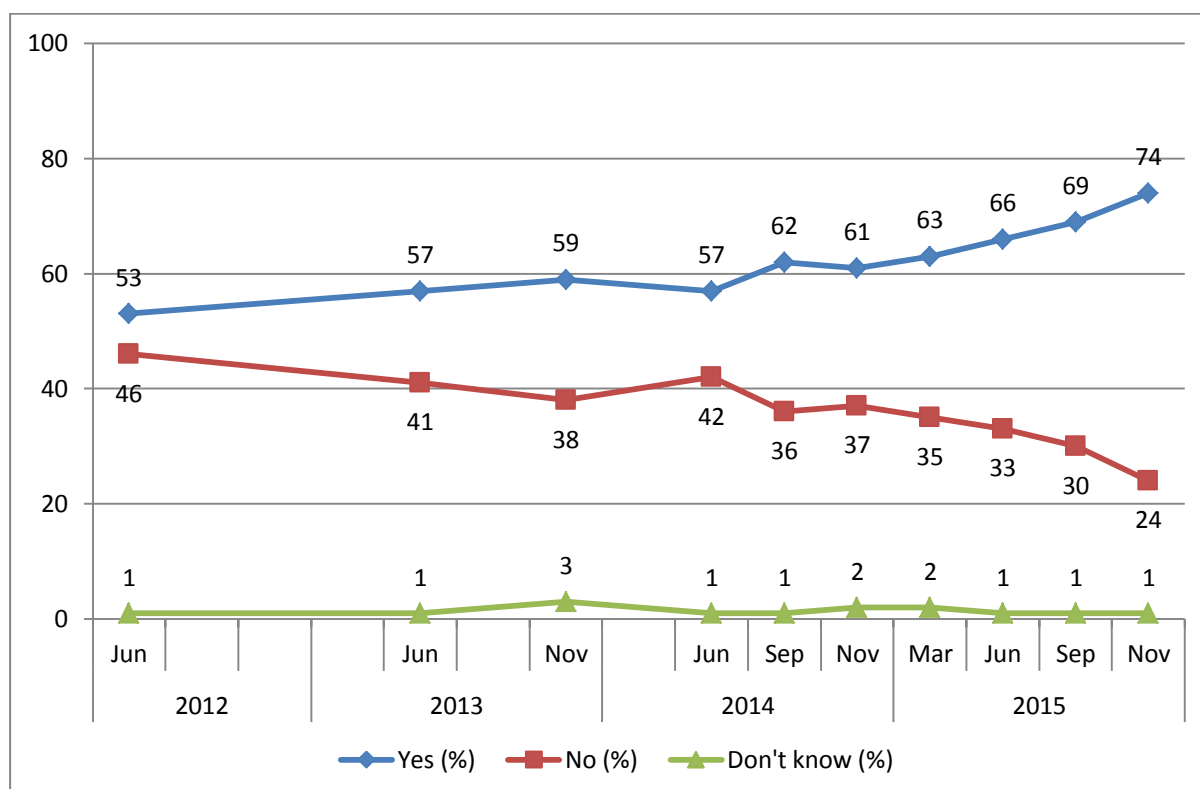
Fieldwork for wave 10 was conducted between 16 and 27 November 2015 (1,000 respondents). A few interviews were conducted after these dates. The survey is designed to be representative of the population resident in Wales aged 16 years and over. This was the last opportunity to measure awareness and understanding of organ donation law before the legislation came into effect on 1 December 2015. This update is being published at this time as it provides the key awareness figures just prior to implementation. A full report presenting detailed findings from wave 10 and wave 11 of the survey will be published in June 2016.

Key findings

Awareness and understanding of changes to the organ donation system

- Respondents were asked, unprompted, if they were aware of any changes that will be taking place to the current system of organ donation. In wave 9, around seven out of ten (69 per cent) reported that they were aware of changes. This increased to 74 per cent in wave 10.

Figure 1: Are you aware of any changes that will be taking place to the current organ donation system? ^a



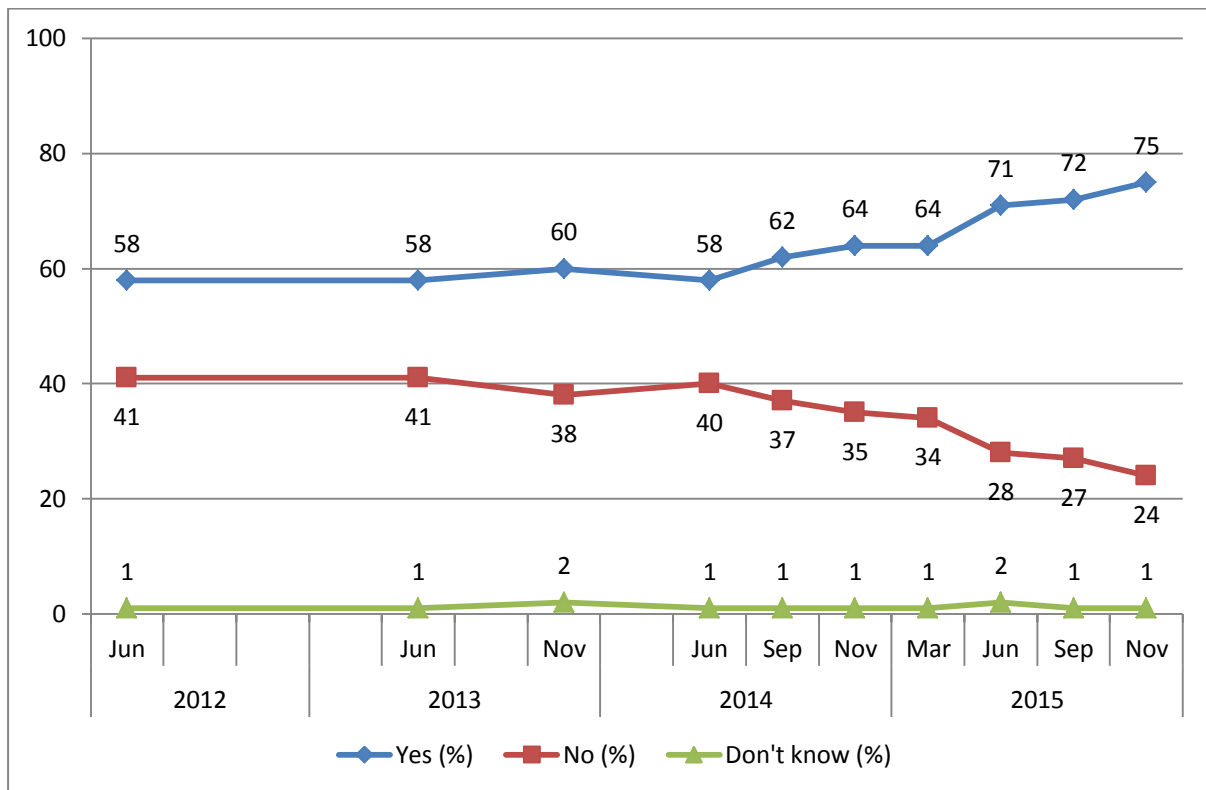
Base: 1,006 (W1 June 2012); 1,015 (W2 June 2013); 1,022 (W3 November 2013); 1,029 (W4 June 2014); 1,002 (W5 September 2014); 1,003 (W6 November 2014); 1,022 (W7 March 2015); 1,018 (W8 June 2015); 1,008 (W9 September 2015); 1,000 (W10 November 2015)

(a) In waves 1 and 2, respondents were asked 'Are you aware of any proposed changes to the current organ donation system?'

Awareness of the detail of the law for changing the organ donation system

- All respondents were shown a description of the new system of organ donation and asked if they had previously seen or heard anything about it. In wave 9, around seven out of ten respondents (72 per cent) reported that they had seen or heard something about the change. This increased to 75 per cent in wave 10.

Figure 2: Before today, have you seen or heard anything about this change? ^a
(Respondents shown description of new system)



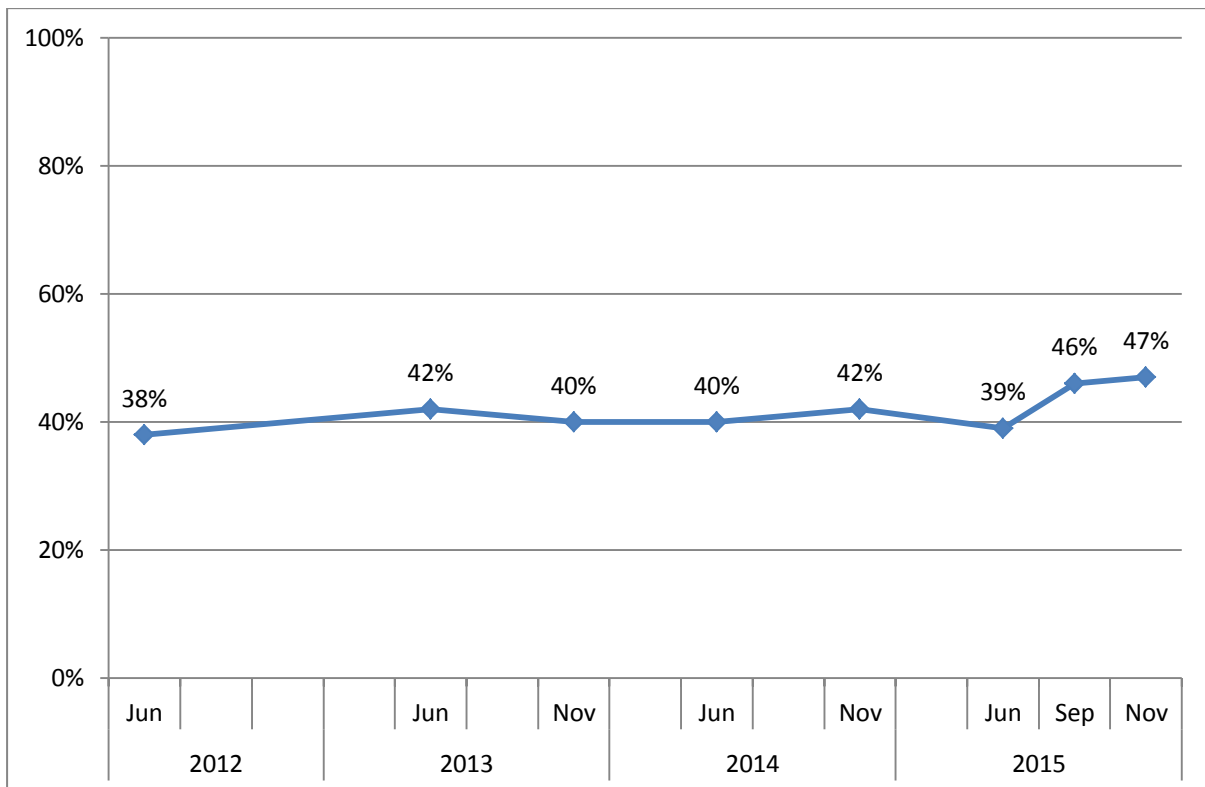
Base: 1,006 (W1 June 2012); 1,015 (W2 June 2013); 1,022 (W3 November 2013); 1,029 (W4 June 2014); 1,002 (W5 September 2014); 1,003 (W6 November 2014); 1,022 (W7 March 2015); 1,018 (W8 June 2015); 1,008 (W9 September 2015); 1,000 (W10, November 2015)

(a) In waves 1 and 2, respondents were asked 'Before today, have you seen or heard anything about this proposal at all?'

Discussing wishes with a family member

Respondents were asked 'Have you ever discussed your wishes regarding organ donation after your death with a family member?'. In wave 9, 46% of respondents that said they had discussed their wishes with a family member. This increased to 47% in wave 10.

Figure 3: Proportion of respondents who had ever discussed their wishes regarding organ donation after death with a family member



Base: 1,006 (W1 June 2012); 1,015 (W2 June 2013); 1,022 (W3 November 2013); 1,029 (W4 June 2014); 1,003 (W6 November 2014); 1,018 (W8 June 2015); 1,008 (W9 September 2015); 1,000 (W10 November 2015)

Next Steps

A full report presenting detailed findings from wave 10 and wave 11 of the survey will be published in June 2016.

For further information please contact:

Rebecca Cox
 Knowledge and Analytical Services
 Welsh Government
 Cathays Park
 Cardiff
 CF10 3NQ
 Email: organ.donation@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Welsh Government Social Research, 1 February 2016

ISBN: 978-1-4734-5835-2

© Crown Copyright 2016



All content is available under the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>