

Disability and MAiD

A Discussion Paper of Public Opinion Polling

Rebecca Vachon | February 2026

Key Points

- This paper discusses findings from a fall 2024 poll, conducted by the Angus Reid Institute in partnership with Cardus, and other available data and research, about Canadians' level of support for MAiD. It also provides data on how MAiD affects people with disabilities and affects Canadians' trust in healthcare.
- The majority of Canadians say they are in favour of MAiD, but this support may be hollow given other data showing that Canadians do not actually know what constitutes MAiD, or who qualifies for it.
 - What most Canadians support, in fact, is MAiD for exceptional or last-resort cases, criteria that are much narrower than current law.
- Fifty-seven percent of Canadians living with severe disabilities say they experience barriers or discrimination in healthcare. Forty-five percent of healthcare workers say that people with disabilities receive "poor" or "terrible" healthcare in Canada.
- Three in five Canadians agree with the statement "I'm worried about financially or socially vulnerable people considering MAiD because they can't access adequate, quality care."
- Health Canada reported that 163 people with a disability did not receive disability support services and received MAiD in 2024, and an additional 239 persons required such services, but it is unknown if they were received. The Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario has documented cases in which MAiD requests appear to have been driven by untreated mental illness, lack of adequate housing, or caregiver burnout, and yet these Ontarians went on to die by MAiD.
- Forty percent of Canadians are in favour of prohibiting doctors from raising the subject of MAiD with their patients unsolicited; by contrast, 43 percent say that doctors should be free to do so. (Canada's MAiD law does not prohibit doctors from raising the subject unsolicited, unlike some international jurisdictions.)
 - Fifty percent of Canadians living with severe disabilities, and 38 percent of those without disabilities, agree that patients may feel pressured to choose MAiD if this subject is raised by their doctor.
- Canadians living with severe disabilities are twice as likely as Canadians without severe disabilities to "strongly agree" that some healthcare facilities should be MAiD-free spaces.

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For the full publication, see Vachon, Rebecca. "Disability and MAiD: A Discussion Paper of Public Opinion Polling." Cardus, 2026. <https://www.cardus.ca/research/health/reports/disability-and-maid/>.