



# Healthcare workers and students in Bulgaria: Perspectives on Assisted Suicide.

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## 1

### INTRODUCTION, OBJECTIVES & METHODS



Assisted suicide, where medical professionals aid terminal patients in ending their lives with consent, is illegal and controversial in Bulgaria, raising ethical concerns. Understanding the views of Bulgarian healthcare workers and students, who are vital in patient care and ethics, is essential. The healthcare workforce consists of approximately 82,041 individuals, with age demographics including up to 35 years (18.2%), 36–54 years (27.3%), 55–64 years (32.6%), and 65 years and older (21.9%) (**National Statistical Inst. of Bulgaria 2023**). This ongoing study aims to explore the views of healthcare professionals and students in Bulgaria on assisted suicide, particularly examining variations based on age, years of experience, and medical specialty.

## 2

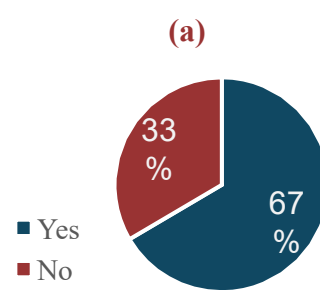
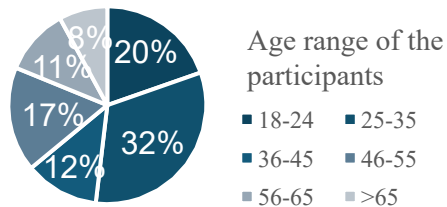
### RESULTS



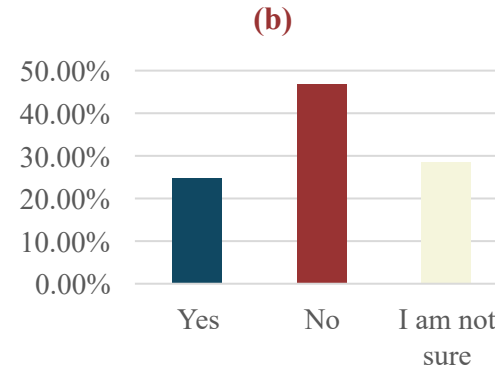
The data gathering for this research is still in progress. The results shared here are based on the initial raw data collected from the first participants.

#### Chart explanations:

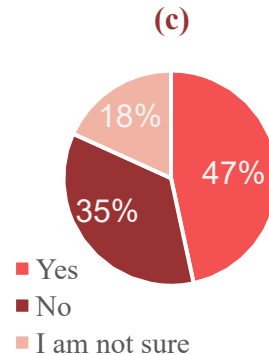
- (a) Familiarity with the concept of assisted suicide.
- (b) Does assisted suicide aligns with ethical principles in healthcare?
- (c) Does assisted suicide conflicts with the Hippocratic Oath?
- (d) Main concern regarding the legalization of assisted suicide?
- (e) Age distribution of support vs. oppose.



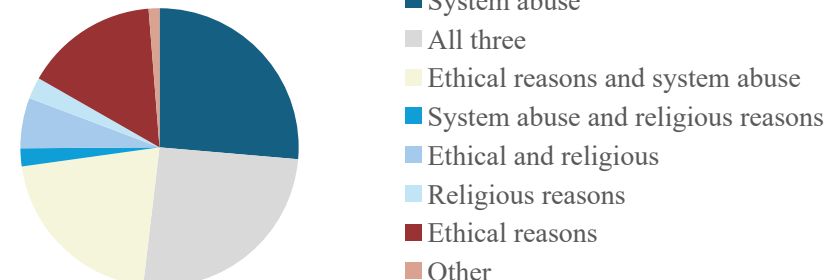
■ Yes  
■ No



(d)



■ Yes  
■ No  
■ I am not sure



■ System abuse  
■ All three  
■ Ethical reasons and system abuse  
■ System abuse and religious reasons  
■ Ethical and religious  
■ Religious reasons  
■ Ethical reasons  
■ Other

## 3

### CONCLUSION



Preliminary findings indicate age-related differences in views on assisted suicide among Bulgarian healthcare professionals and students. Notably, the participant age distribution differs from the overall workforce, which could potentially influence attitudes and the interpretation of the results. It is important to view all current findings with caution, keeping in mind their preliminary status and potential for change.

