



Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion

Date: October 2017

Job Reference: 265517



REDC

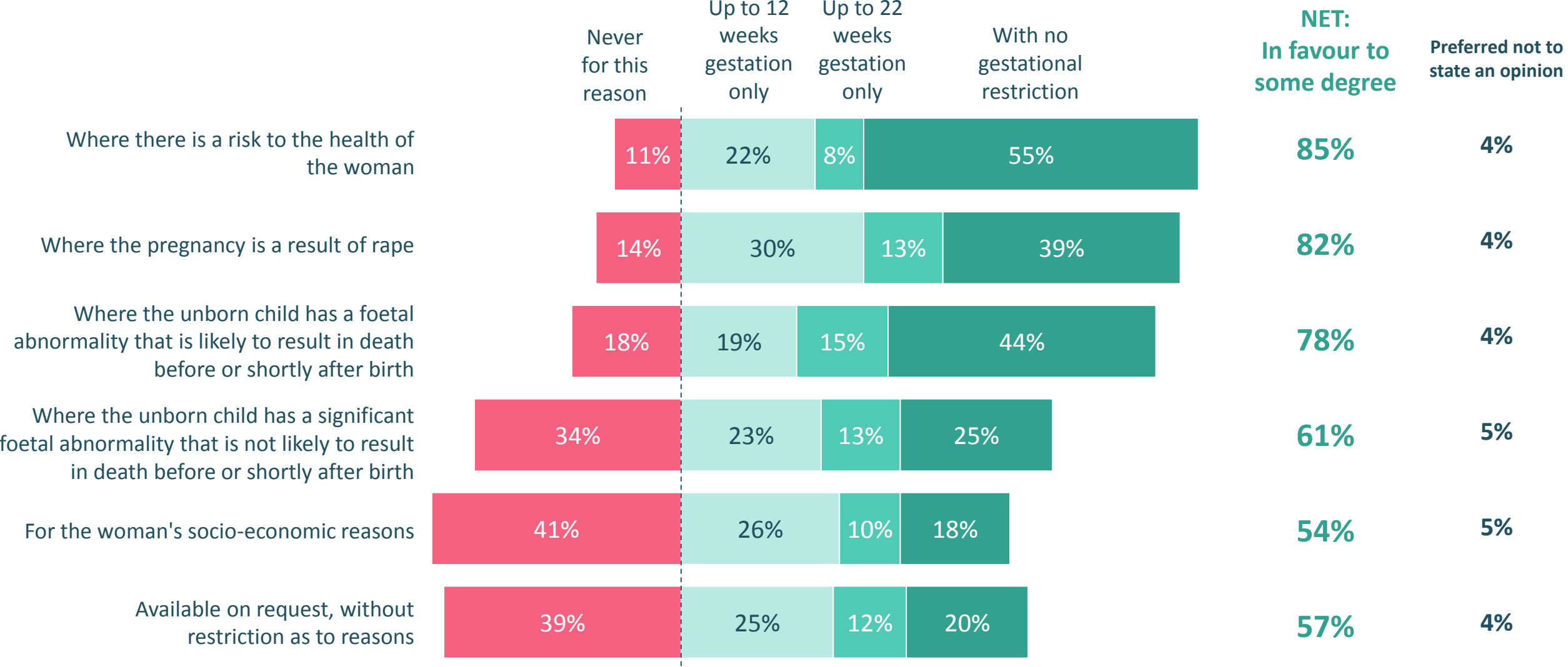
Research Methodology



- / The research was conducted in October 2017, using RED C's telephone omnibus survey, RED Express. This is the same methodology by which we conduct our regular political opinion polls for the Sunday Business Post.
- / **1,000 adults aged 18+** were interviewed over the telephone between **16th and 19th October 2017**.
- / The sample size was **quota controlled** by age, gender, socio-economic status and region in order to ensure a fully representative sample.
- / In addition to this, RED Express uses a Random Digit Dial (RDD) method across landline and mobile to ensure that ex-directory households or those with no landline are included in the sample – **ensuring maximum representation**.
- / The margin of error on a sample size of 1,000 is +/- 3.2%.

Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion

All Adults 18+ (n=1,000)

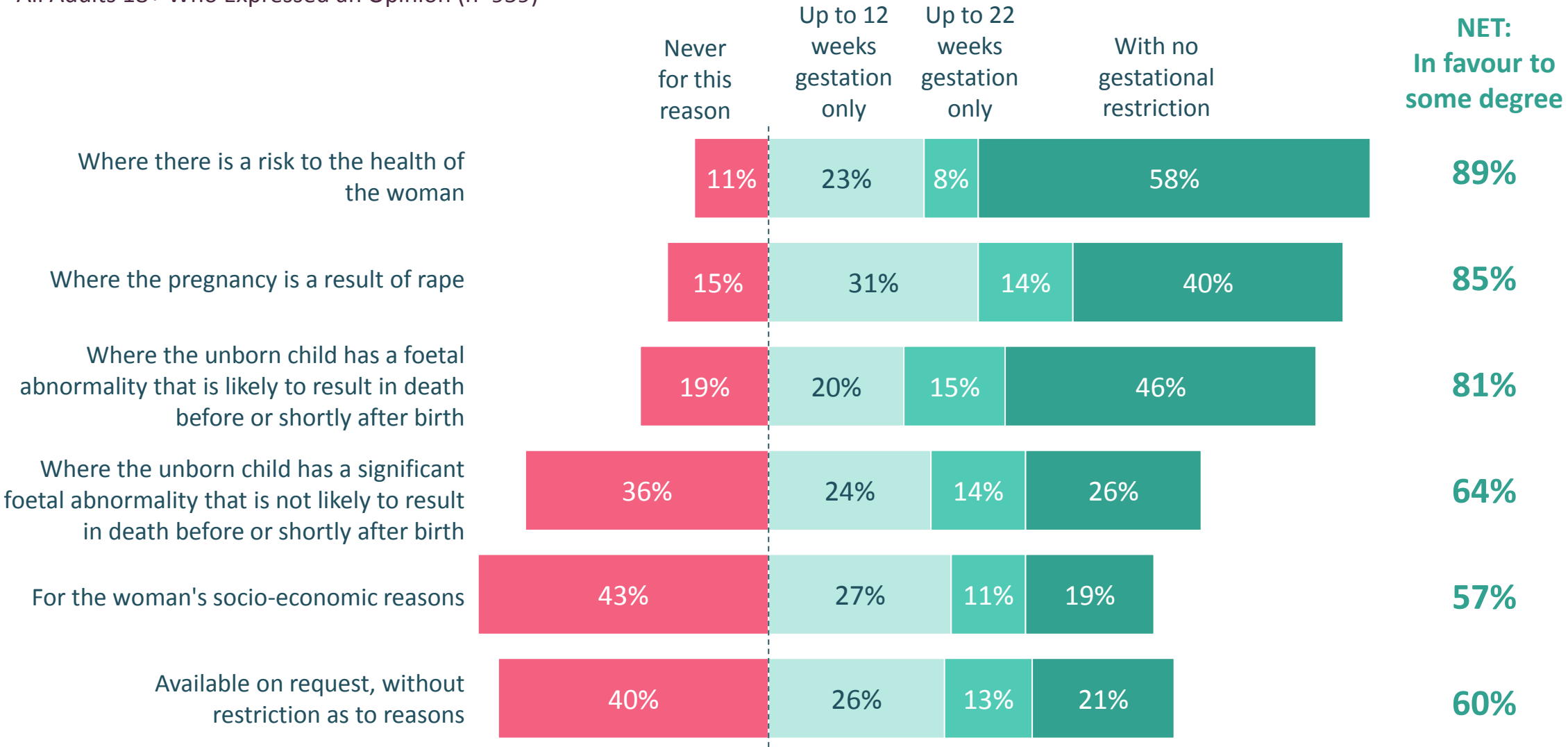


There are varying degrees of attitudes towards the gestational limit on abortion depending on the circumstance. However it is clear that there are more in favour of abortion, either with some gestational limit or none at all, than there are against.



Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion – Excluding Refused

All Adults 18+ Who Expressed an Opinion (n=959)



There are varying degrees of attitudes towards the gestational limit on abortion depending on the circumstance. However it is clear that there are more in favour of abortion, either with some gestational limit or none at all, than there are against.





Demographic Views

Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion – I

All Adults 18+ Who Expressed an Opinion (n=959)

Where there is a risk to the health of the woman

		Gender		Age						Region				Social Class		
	TOTAL (959)	Male (467)	Female (492)	18-24 (99)	25-34 (182)	35-44 (206)	45-54 (174)	55-64 (136)	65+ (161)	Dublin (270)	ROL (251)	Munster (267)	Conn/ Ulster (170)	ABC1 (400)	C2DE (482)	F (56)
Never for this reason	11%	10%	12%	8%	6%	10%	9%	11%	22%	7%	11%	10%	18%	8%	13%	15%
Up to 12 weeks gestation only	23%	18%	28%	17%	17%	18%	29%	30%	27%	17%	23%	25%	30%	18%	28%	22%
Up to 22 weeks gestation only	8%	9%	7%	14%	5%	9%	8%	6%	9%	9%	8%	8%	8%	12%	7%	2%
With no gestational restriction	58%	63%	53%	62%	71%	62%	54%	53%	42%	66%	58%	57%	45%	63%	52%	61%
NET: In favour to some degree	89%	90%	88%	92%	94%	90%	91%	89%	78%	93%	89%	90%	82%	92%	87%	85%

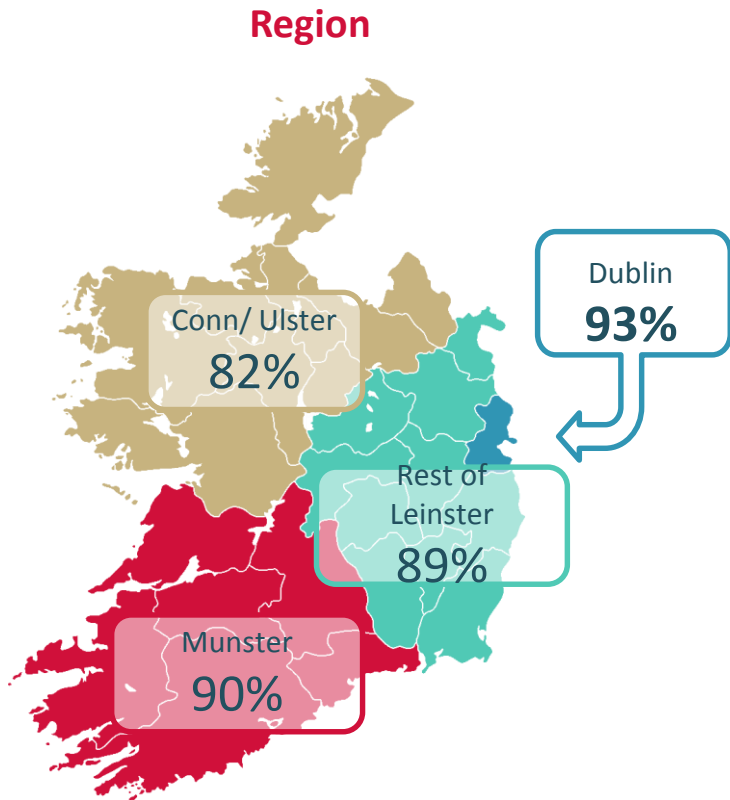
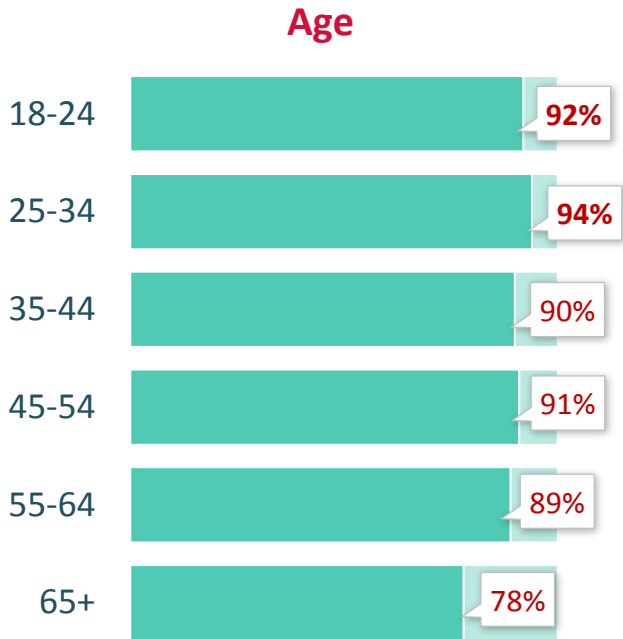
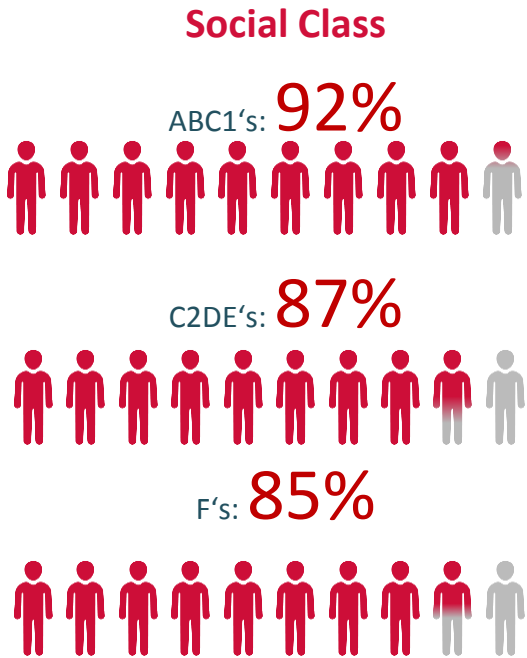
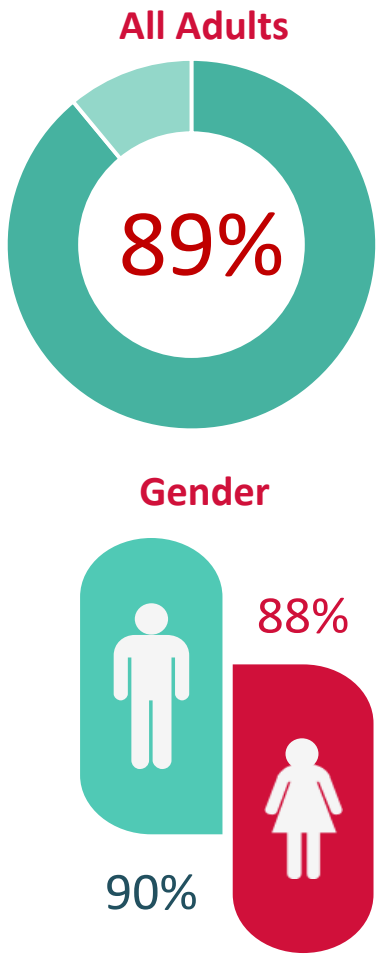
		Dependent Children		Working Status						Marital Status				Area	
	TOTAL (959)	None (550)	Any (407)	Working full time (416)	Working part time (132)	Unemployed (63)	Home Maker (151)	Full time Student (62)	Retired (130)	Married/ civil partnership (488)	Living as married/ cohabiting (70)	Single (306)	Widowed/ divorced/ separated (89)	Urban (537)	Rural (410)
Never for this reason	11%	14%	7%	7%	12%	10%	13%	6%	25%	12%	2%	9%	21%	8%	14%
Up to 12 weeks gestation only	23%	19%	28%	16%	26%	20%	38%	24%	23%	30%	17%	13%	21%	21%	25%
Up to 22 weeks gestation only	8%	8%	9%	10%	8%	10%	3%	5%	12%	8%	10%	8%	10%	8%	9%
With no gestational restriction	58%	59%	56%	67%	53%	60%	46%	66%	41%	50%	71%	70%	48%	63%	52%
NET: In favour to some degree	89%	86%	93%	93%	88%	90%	87%	94%	75%	88%	98%	91%	79%	92%	86%

Widespread agreement that abortion should be allowed, either without gestational restriction or with some restrictions when there is a risk to the health of the woman, particularly those aged 18-34.

Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion – I

All Adults 18+ Who Expressed an Opinion (n=959)

Where there is a risk to the health of the woman



Widespread agreement that abortion should be allowed, either without gestational restriction or with some restrictions when there is a risk to the health of the woman, particularly those aged 18-34.

Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion – II

All Adults 18+ Who Expressed an Opinion (n=959)

Where the pregnancy is a result of rape

		Gender		Age						Region				Social Class		
	TOTAL (959)	Male (466)	Female (495)	18-24 (99)	25-34 (185)	35-44 (207)	45-54 (172)	55-64 (133)	65+ (164)	Dublin (269)	ROL (253)	Munster (267)	Conn/ Ulster (170)	ABC1 (399)	C2DE (484)	F (54)
Never for this reason	15%	11%	19%	2%	7%	13%	17%	21%	27%	9%	15%	20%	18%	11%	16%	35%
Up to 12 weeks gestation only	31%	24%	38%	23%	25%	32%	38%	33%	33%	30%	35%	32%	26%	31%	32%	21%
Up to 22 weeks gestation only	14%	14%	13%	20%	20%	12%	9%	10%	11%	13%	14%	11%	18%	13%	14%	10%
With no gestational restriction	40%	52%	30%	55%	49%	42%	35%	37%	28%	49%	36%	38%	37%	45%	37%	35%
NET: In favour to some degree	85%	89%	81%	98%	93%	87%	83%	79%	73%	91%	85%	80%	82%	89%	84%	65%

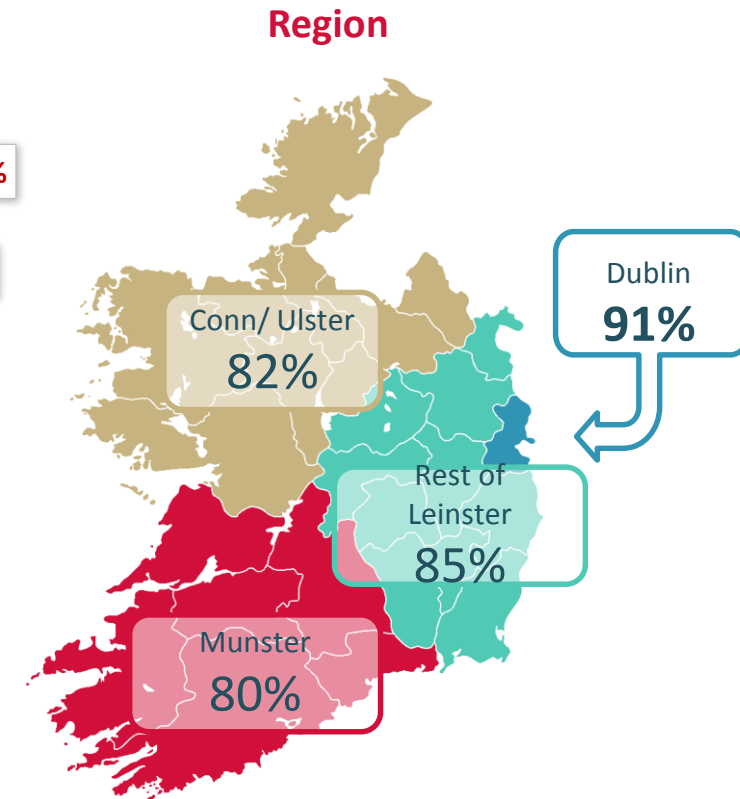
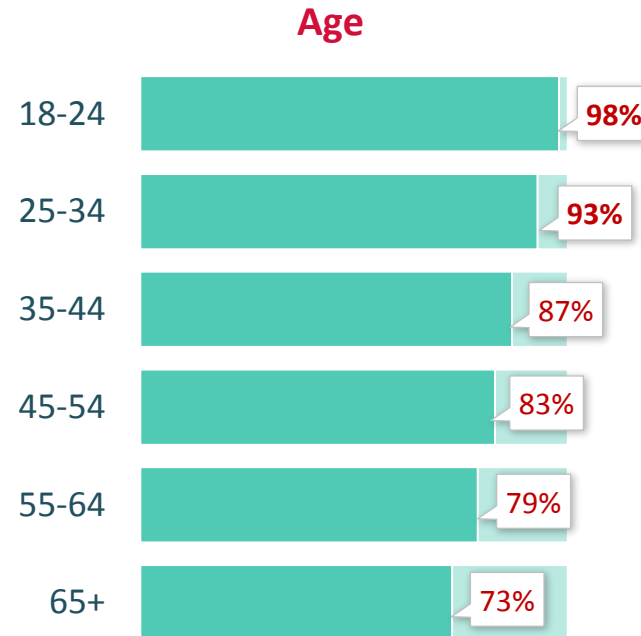
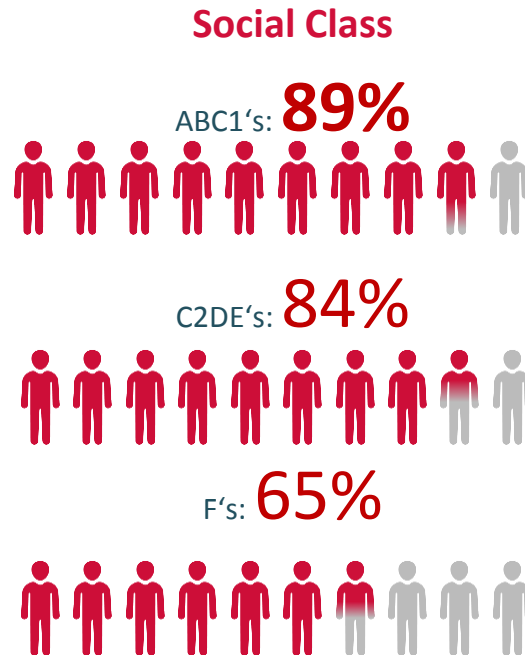
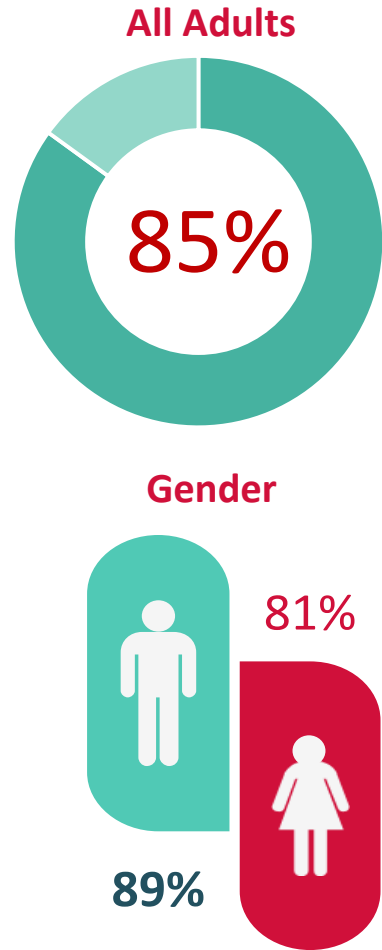
		Dependent Children		Working Status						Marital Status				Area	
	TOTAL (959)	None (552)	Any (406)	Working full time (414)	Working part time (131)	Unemployed (63)	Home Maker (151)	Full time Student (60)	Retired (135)	Married/ civil partnership (490)	Living as married/ cohabiting (70)	Single (306)	Widowed/ divorced/ separated (89)	Urban (539)	Rural (409)
Never for this reason	15%	17%	12%	8%	14%	10%	28%	6%	28%	19%	3%	7%	27%	10%	21%
Up to 12 weeks gestation only	31%	26%	38%	26%	32%	41%	41%	28%	33%	35%	38%	24%	28%	32%	31%
Up to 22 weeks gestation only	14%	13%	14%	15%	16%	7%	12%	14%	11%	12%	16%	17%	6%	13%	14%
With no gestational restriction	40%	43%	36%	51%	37%	42%	18%	52%	28%	33%	43%	52%	38%	45%	34%
NET: In favour to some degree	85%	83%	88%	92%	86%	90%	72%	94%	72%	81%	97%	93%	73%	90%	79%

Age plays a key factors in attitudes as those in favour of allowing abortion in cases of rape with some gestational limits (or none at all) declines as age rises. There is also a clear urban/rural divide.

Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion – II

All Adults 18+ Who Expressed an Opinion (n=959)

Where the pregnancy is a result of rape



Age plays a key factor in attitudes as those in favour of allowing abortion in cases of rape with some gestational limits (or none at all) declines as age rises. Support in Dublin is almost universal.

Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion – III

All Adults 18+ Who Expressed an Opinion (n=955)

Where the unborn child has a foetal abnormality that is likely to result in death before or shortly after birth

		Gender		Age						Region				Social Class		
	TOTAL (955)	Male (461)	Female (494)	18-24 (98)	25-34 (185)	35-44 (207)	45-54 (172)	55-64 (132)	65+ (162)	Dublin (269)	ROL (251)	Munster (265)	Conn/ Ulster (172)	ABC1 (400)	C2DE (481)	F (53)
Never for this reason	19%	12%	25%	8%	11%	18%	19%	26%	28%	10%	19%	23%	25%	11%	22%	36%
Up to 12 weeks gestation only	20%	21%	20%	12%	15%	15%	28%	24%	26%	21%	19%	19%	22%	17%	23%	14%
Up to 22 weeks gestation only	15%	15%	16%	18%	19%	17%	17%	9%	12%	13%	20%	14%	16%	18%	14%	10%
With no gestational restriction	46%	52%	40%	62%	54%	50%	36%	42%	34%	56%	42%	44%	37%	53%	41%	40%
NET: In favour to some degree	81%	88%	75%	92%	89%	82%	81%	74%	72%	90%	81%	77%	75%	89%	78%	64%

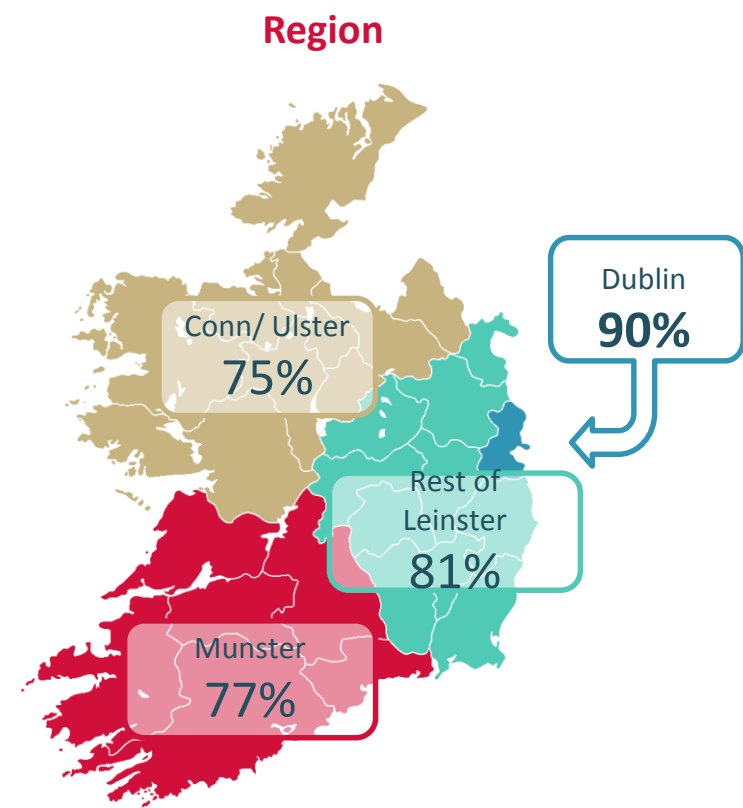
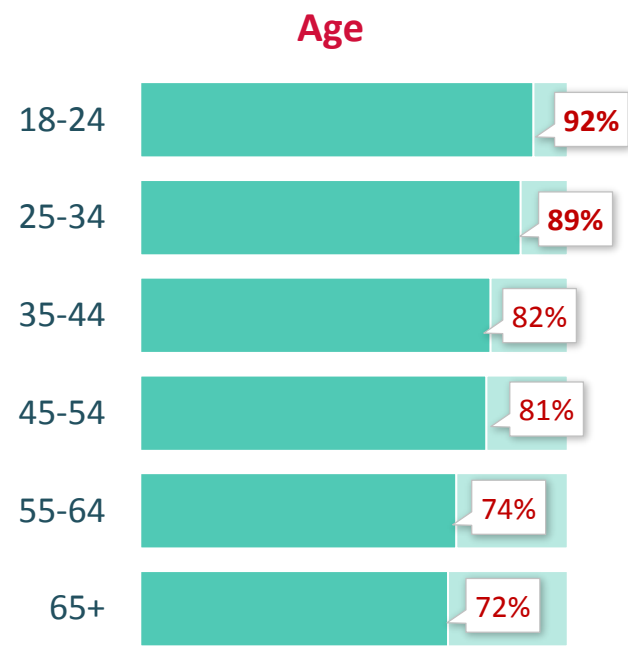
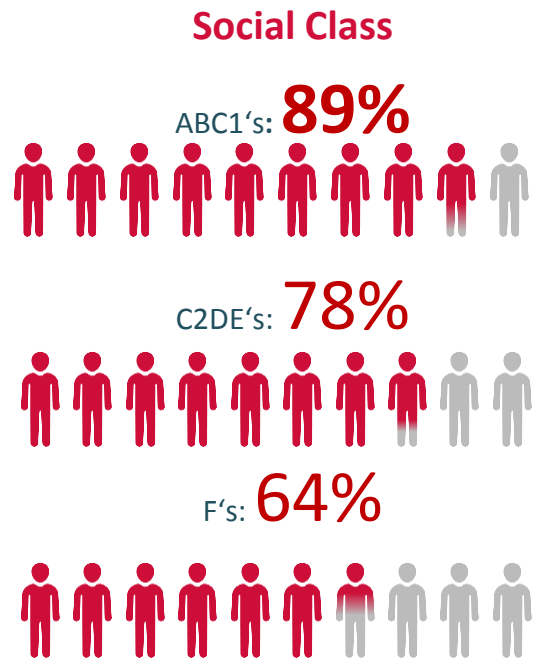
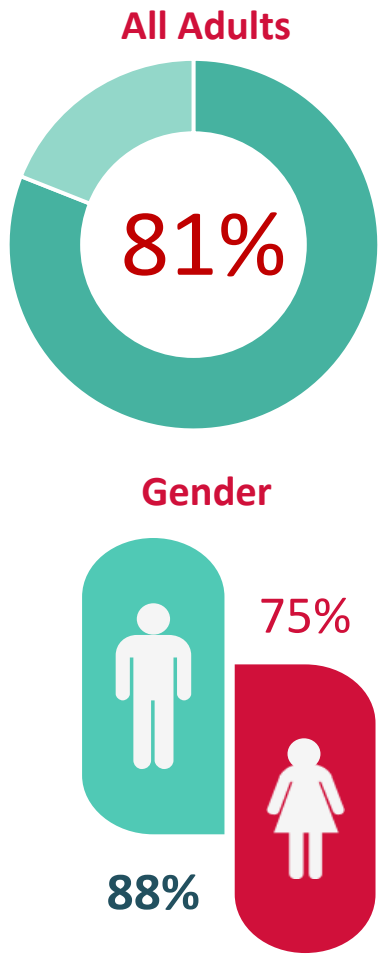
		Dependent Children		Working Status						Marital Status				Area	
	TOTAL (955)	None (547)	Any (407)	Working full time (415)	Working part time (132)	Unemployed (62)	Home Maker (151)	Full time Student (61)	Retired (131)	Married/ civil partnership (491)	Living as married/ cohabiting (70)	Single (304)	Widowed/ divorced/ separated (86)	Urban (539)	Rural (406)
Never for this reason	19%	20%	17%	11%	15%	16%	35%	10%	32%	20%	16%	13%	30%	15%	23%
Up to 12 weeks gestation only	20%	17%	24%	18%	25%	24%	22%	11%	22%	26%	7%	14%	18%	19%	22%
Up to 22 weeks gestation only	15%	14%	17%	17%	17%	15%	12%	15%	14%	14%	16%	19%	14%	15%	16%
With no gestational restriction	46%	49%	42%	54%	43%	44%	31%	64%	32%	40%	61%	55%	38%	51%	39%
NET: In favour to some degree	81%	80%	83%	89%	85%	84%	65%	90%	68%	80%	84%	87%	70%	85%	77%

In instances where there is a foetal abnormality likely to result in death, before or shortly after birth, gender shows slightly more variance in opinion – with women more likely to say ‘never for this reason’.

Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion – III

All Adults 18+ Who Expressed an Opinion (n=955)

Where the unborn child has a foetal abnormality that is likely to result in death before or shortly after birth



In instances where there is a foetal abnormality likely to result in death, before or shortly after birth, gender shows slightly more variance in opinion – with men significantly higher in support.



Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion – IV

All Adults 18+ Who Expressed an Opinion (n=946)

Where the unborn child has a significant foetal abnormality that is not likely to result in death before or shortly after birth

		Gender		Age						Region				Social Class		
	TOTAL (946)	Male (457)	Female (489)	18-24 (95)	25-34 (181)	35-44 (206)	45-54 (169)	55-64 (132)	65+ (161)	Dublin (270)	ROL (251)	Munster (259)	Conn/ Ulster (166)	ABC1 (399)	C2DE (471)	F (54)
Never for this reason	36%	31%	40%	43%	31%	32%	39%	39%	36%	24%	42%	38%	41%	29%	39%	45%
Up to 12 weeks gestation only	24%	22%	26%	15%	18%	23%	26%	30%	30%	26%	23%	21%	27%	22%	26%	19%
Up to 22 weeks gestation only	14%	15%	13%	14%	18%	20%	12%	6%	12%	16%	12%	15%	12%	20%	11%	-
With no gestational restriction	26%	32%	21%	28%	34%	26%	23%	25%	22%	34%	22%	26%	21%	28%	25%	36%
NET: In favour to some degree	64%	69%	60%	57%	69%	68%	61%	61%	64%	76%	58%	62%	59%	71%	61%	55%

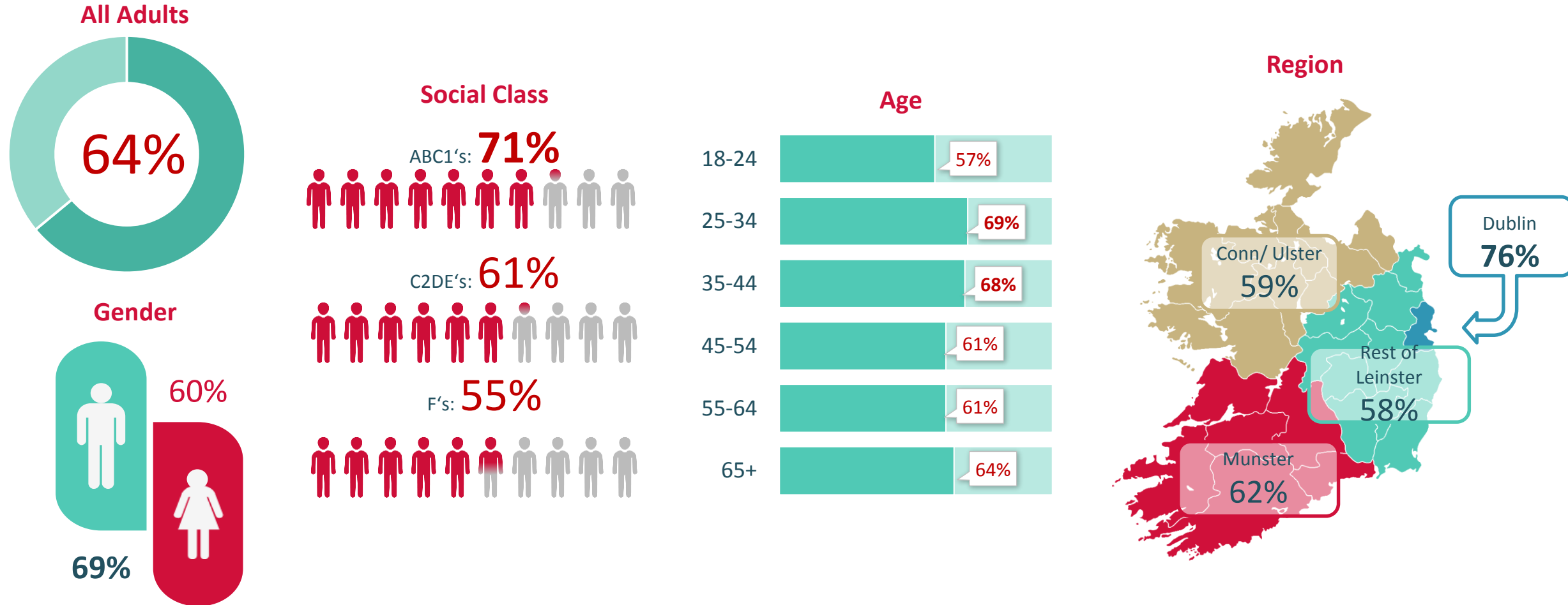
		Dependent Children		Working Status						Marital Status				Area	
	TOTAL (946)	None (540)	Any (404)	Working full time (414)	Working part time (129)	Unemployed (57)	Home Maker (151)	Full time Student (59)	Retired (133)	Married/ civil partnership (484)	Living as married/ cohabiting (70)	Single (299)	Widowed/ divorced/ separated (89)	Urban (535)	Rural (401)
Never for this reason	36%	35%	37%	29%	39%	39%	49%	31%	39%	34%	24%	39%	41%	31%	42%
Up to 12 weeks gestation only	24%	23%	25%	19%	30%	25%	31%	21%	27%	31%	23%	14%	23%	24%	24%
Up to 22 weeks gestation only	14%	14%	15%	19%	7%	13%	10%	15%	12%	15%	19%	13%	12%	16%	12%
With no gestational restriction	26%	29%	23%	34%	24%	24%	10%	32%	22%	21%	34%	34%	24%	29%	22%
NET: In favour to some degree	64%	65%	63%	71%	61%	61%	51%	69%	61%	66%	76%	61%	59%	69%	58%

Where a foetal abnormality is unlikely to result in death before or shortly after birth, 2 in 3 believe abortion should be allowed either with some gestation restriction or none at all. Again, Urban/Rural shows divided opinion.

Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion – IV

All Adults 18+ Who Expressed an Opinion (n=946)

Where the unborn child has a significant foetal abnormality that is not likely to result in death before or shortly after birth



Where a foetal abnormality is unlikely to result in death before or shortly after birth, 2 in 3 believe abortion should be allowed either with some gestation restriction or none at all. High support across most age brackets.

Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion – V

All Adults 18+ Who Expressed an Opinion (n=949)

For the woman's socio-economic reasons

		Gender		Age						Region				Social Class		
	TOTAL (949)	Male (459)	Female (489)	18-24 (97)	25-34 (182)	35-44 (204)	45-54 (171)	55-64 (133)	65+ (162)	Dublin (264)	ROL (249)	Munster (264)	Conn/ Ulster (172)	ABC1 (398)	C2DE (475)	F (55)
Never for this reason	43%	41%	45%	27%	29%	44%	56%	51%	48%	33%	46%	45%	50%	41%	44%	42%
Up to 12 weeks gestation only	27%	23%	31%	32%	28%	29%	23%	27%	25%	28%	32%	24%	23%	28%	27%	22%
Up to 22 weeks gestation only	11%	12%	10%	13%	18%	13%	6%	4%	9%	14%	9%	9%	11%	14%	9%	6%
With no gestational restriction	19%	25%	14%	28%	25%	14%	14%	19%	18%	24%	13%	21%	16%	17%	20%	29%
NET: In favour to some degree	57%	59%	55%	73%	71%	56%	44%	49%	52%	67%	54%	55%	50%	59%	56%	58%

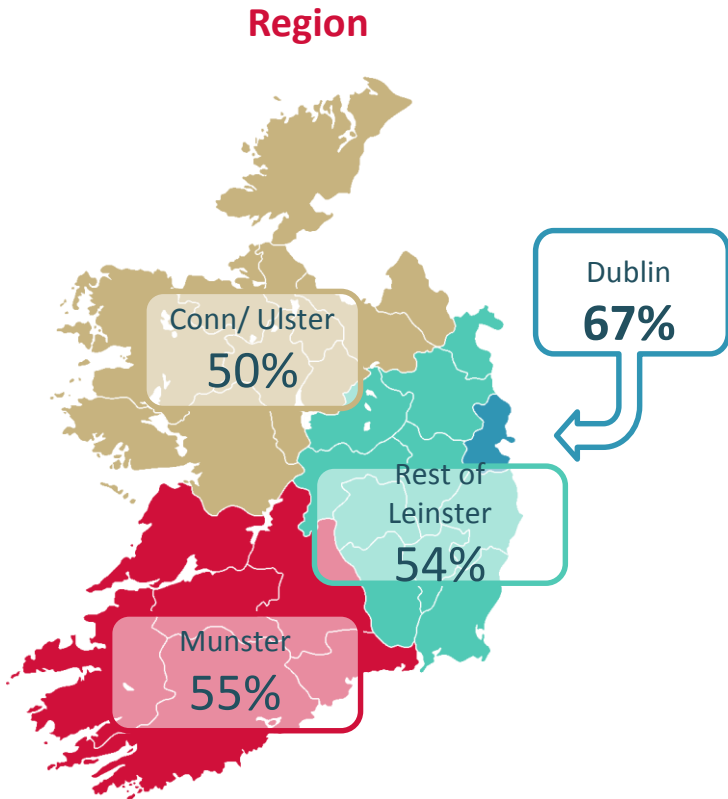
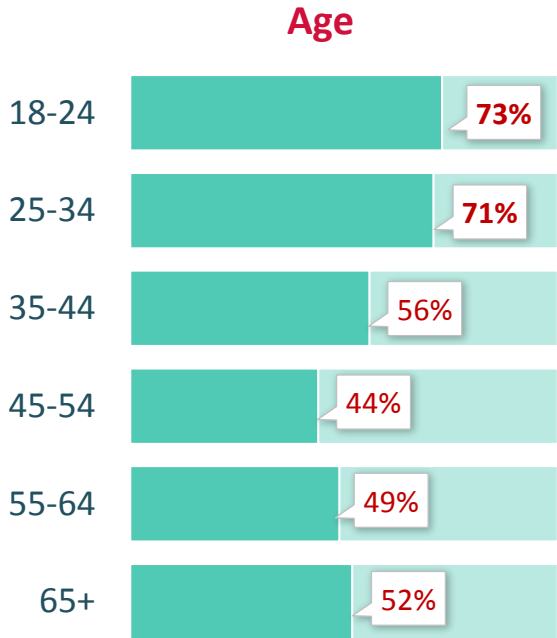
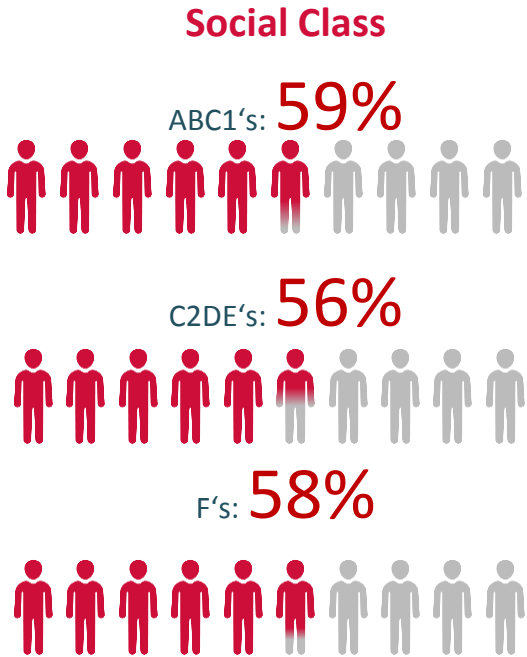
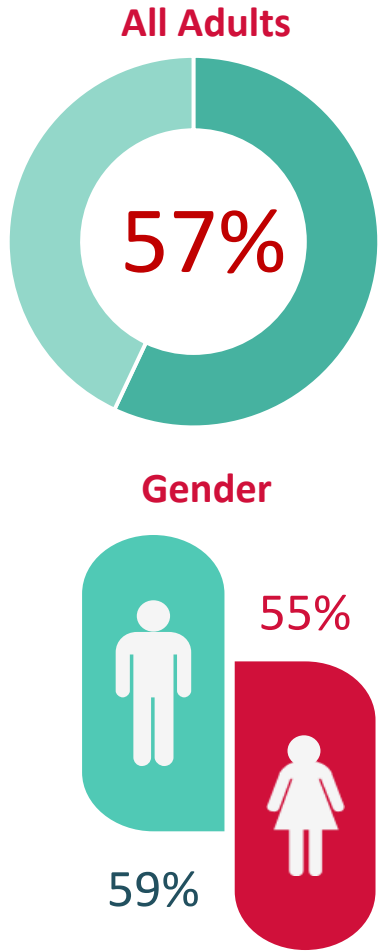
		Dependent Children		Working Status						Marital Status				Area	
	TOTAL (949)	None (546)	Any (401)	Working full time (409)	Working part time (127)	Unemployed (65)	Home Maker (147)	Full time Student (62)	Retired (135)	Married/ civil partnership (493)	Living as married/ cohabiting (68)	Single (299)	Widowed/ divorced/ separated (86)	Urban (535)	Rural (404)
Never for this reason	43%	41%	47%	40%	42%	46%	51%	15%	58%	52%	31%	32%	45%	40%	48%
Up to 12 weeks gestation only	27%	25%	29%	22%	43%	22%	29%	41%	19%	27%	24%	26%	28%	28%	25%
Up to 22 weeks gestation only	11%	11%	10%	13%	5%	10%	13%	15%	5%	9%	19%	15%	4%	12%	10%
With no gestational restriction	19%	23%	14%	25%	10%	22%	8%	28%	18%	13%	26%	27%	23%	20%	17%
NET: In favour to some degree	57%	59%	53%	60%	58%	54%	49%	85%	42%	48%	69%	68%	55%	60%	52%

Allowing abortion for a woman's socio economic reason returns less agreement, however still a majority at 57%. Age a clear divider of opinion in this instance.

Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion – V

All Adults 18+ Who Expressed an Opinion (n=949)

For the woman's socio-economic reasons



Allowing abortion for a woman's socio economic reason returns less agreement, however still a majority at 57%. Age a clear divider of opinion in this instance.

Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion – VI

All Adults 18+ Who Expressed an Opinion (n=958)

Available on request, without restriction as to reasons

		Gender		Age						Region				Social Class		
	TOTAL (958)	Male (468)	Female (490)	18-24 (99)	25-34 (185)	35-44 (205)	45-54 (173)	55-64 (132)	65+ (165)	Dublin (270)	ROL (247)	Munster (268)	Conn/ Ulster (173)	ABC1 (403)	C2DE (480)	F (54)
Never for this reason	40%	37%	43%	21%	27%	40%	52%	53%	47%	33%	44%	41%	47%	36%	43%	52%
Up to 12 weeks gestation only	26%	21%	30%	32%	28%	30%	23%	20%	22%	27%	27%	24%	25%	28%	25%	16%
Up to 22 weeks gestation only	13%	14%	11%	18%	17%	12%	7%	9%	13%	15%	13%	11%	11%	16%	10%	11%
With no gestational restriction	21%	28%	15%	30%	28%	18%	18%	17%	18%	26%	15%	24%	17%	20%	22%	21%
NET: In favour to some degree	60%	63%	57%	79%	73%	60%	48%	47%	53%	67%	56%	59%	53%	64%	57%	48%

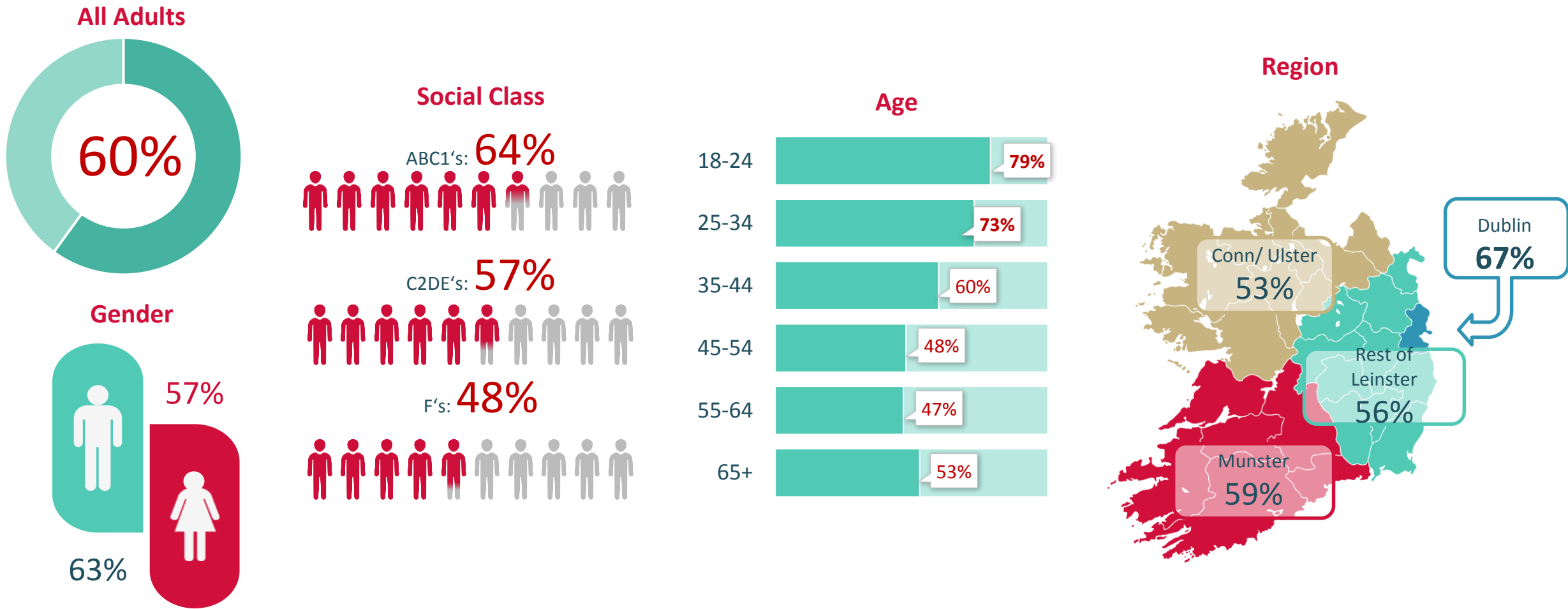
		Dependent Children		Working Status						Marital Status				Area	
	TOTAL (958)	None (548)	Any (408)	Working full time (415)	Working part time (132)	Unemployed (61)	Home Maker (147)	Full time Student (62)	Retired (136)	Married/ civil partnership (498)	Living as married/ cohabiting (70)	Single (301)	Widowed/ divorced/ separated (86)	Urban (540)	Rural (407)
Never for this reason	40%	38%	44%	37%	33%	33%	53%	23%	55%	50%	28%	26%	43%	37%	45%
Up to 12 weeks gestation only	26%	24%	28%	21%	41%	34%	25%	31%	20%	24%	28%	29%	28%	29%	23%
Up to 22 weeks gestation only	13%	13%	12%	14%	12%	12%	13%	15%	9%	11%	19%	14%	11%	13%	11%
With no gestational restriction	21%	25%	16%	28%	14%	21%	9%	31%	16%	15%	25%	31%	18%	21%	21%
NET: In favour to some degree	60%	62%	56%	63%	67%	67%	47%	77%	45%	50%	72%	74%	57%	63%	55%

Allowing abortion on request without reason has high support at 6 in 10 agreeing either with gestational limits or none at all.

Attitudes Towards Gestational Limits on Abortion – VI

All Adults 18+ Who Expressed an Opinion (n=958)

Available on request, without restriction as to reasons



Allowing abortion on request without reason has high support at 6 in 10 agreeing either with gestational limits or none at all – significantly higher in Dublin and those aged under 35.





The Big Picture

The Big Picture



- / It is clear that the adult population in Ireland believe a transformative change is needed as 6 in 10 believe that abortion should be available on request without restriction as to reason either with some, or no gestational limit.
- / This appetite for change is further evident as 9 in 10 believe abortion should be allowed in cases where there is a risk to the health of the woman, just under 9 in 10 believe it should be allowed in cases of rape and 8 in 10 agree it should be allowed, either with some or no gestational limit in cases where a foetal abnormality is likely to result in death before or shortly after birth.
- / A smaller majority, believe abortion should be allowed in cases where a foetal abnormality is unlikely to result in death before or shortly after birth (over 6 in 10) and for a woman's socio economic standing (just under 6 in 10).
- / In terms of demographics, there appear to be two key dividers on opinion: age and urban/rural residency. Those of a younger age, 18-34 year olds and those residing in urban areas tend to be more in favour of abortion in varying circumstance, while those aged 45+ and those who live in rural areas tend to be more against.
- / A very low proportion (circa 4%) chose to abstain from giving an opinion on the subject and statements that were presented to them, suggesting that opinions on this issue are very strong.
- / That said, the reality is that a referendum on the subject will likely take place in summer 2018 giving both sides of the argument opportunity to convey their message – while for many their opinion has been formed and is unlikely to be changed, there remains a pool who may be undecided.