

Australian attitudes on access to early and late abortion.

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Survey data not included in MJA article

These tables supplement the article published in The Medical Journal of Australia 2010 193: 1-4. They could not be included because of space limitations.

Numbers in the bar graphs differ slightly because of the reweighting of the data to take account of the Victorian over-sample.

Table 1: Do parliamentary candidates' attitudes to abortion law reform change voters' intentions?

This question sought to determine whether voters are sensitive to abortion attitudes of candidates for State/Territory parliaments. Similar proportions of voters reported that they would be more likely (25%) or less likely (28%) to vote for a candidate if they supported access to abortion throughout pregnancy.

Question: Would you be more or less likely to vote for your local State Member of Parliament at the next State election if they supported legislation that allowed a woman's consent to provide lawful authority for an abortion throughout her pregnancy, such as allowed for in Model C (i.e. abortion is lawful with the woman's consent only), or wouldn't it make any difference to the way you vote? (n=798)

Abortion position influence on vote	
Much more likely to vote for them	10%
Somewhat more likely to vote for them	15%
Somewhat less likely to vote for them	10%
Much less likely to vote for them	18%
Wouldn't affect the way I vote	34%
Undecided/Can't say	12%

Table 2: Household relationship to terminations

	Males	Females
Yes, have personally had a pregnancy termination [WOMEN ONLY]	Not asked	17%
Not personally had a pregnancy termination, but have seriously considered it [WOMEN ONLY]	Not asked	7%
No, have not had or seriously considered having a pregnancy termination [WOMEN ONLY]	Not asked	48%
Other person in immediate family/household has definitely had a pregnancy termination	17%	14%
Other person in immediate family/household has probably had a pregnancy termination	4%	2%
Other person in immediate family/household has definitely considered a pregnancy termination	4%	3%
Other person in immediate family/household has probably considered a pregnancy termination	5%	2%
To the best of my knowledge, other persons in immediate family/household have not had or considered a pregnancy termination	61%	34%
Prefer not to say	6%	5%
Can't say	5%	1%

Question: Have you or anyone else in your immediate family or household ever had or seriously considered a pregnancy termination? Multiple responses allowed.

The following bar graphs are from responses to the question:

Following are some specific circumstances under which an abortion after 24 weeks gestation might be considered. (The 24-week deadline is based on the timelines used in other jurisdictions and current clinical practice in Victoria. The VLRC report notes that the medical profession recognises 22–26 weeks gestation as a ‘grey zone’, where some fetuses have survived, most with ongoing disability, through major medical intervention.) Thinking specifically about a situation where either you or someone close to you such as a partner, sister, daughter or close friend was facing such circumstances, please indicate whether or not you think that a doctor should face professional sanctions including possible de-registration for performing an abortion after 24 weeks for you or the woman close to you.

Table 3: Attitudes of Males and Females

Should a doctor face sanctions for performing an abortion after 24 weeks?

(Males n=380, Females n=418).

There were no statistically differences between the responses between men and women (differences, 0–4 percentage points; maximum CI, ±2.9–4.4 percentage points).

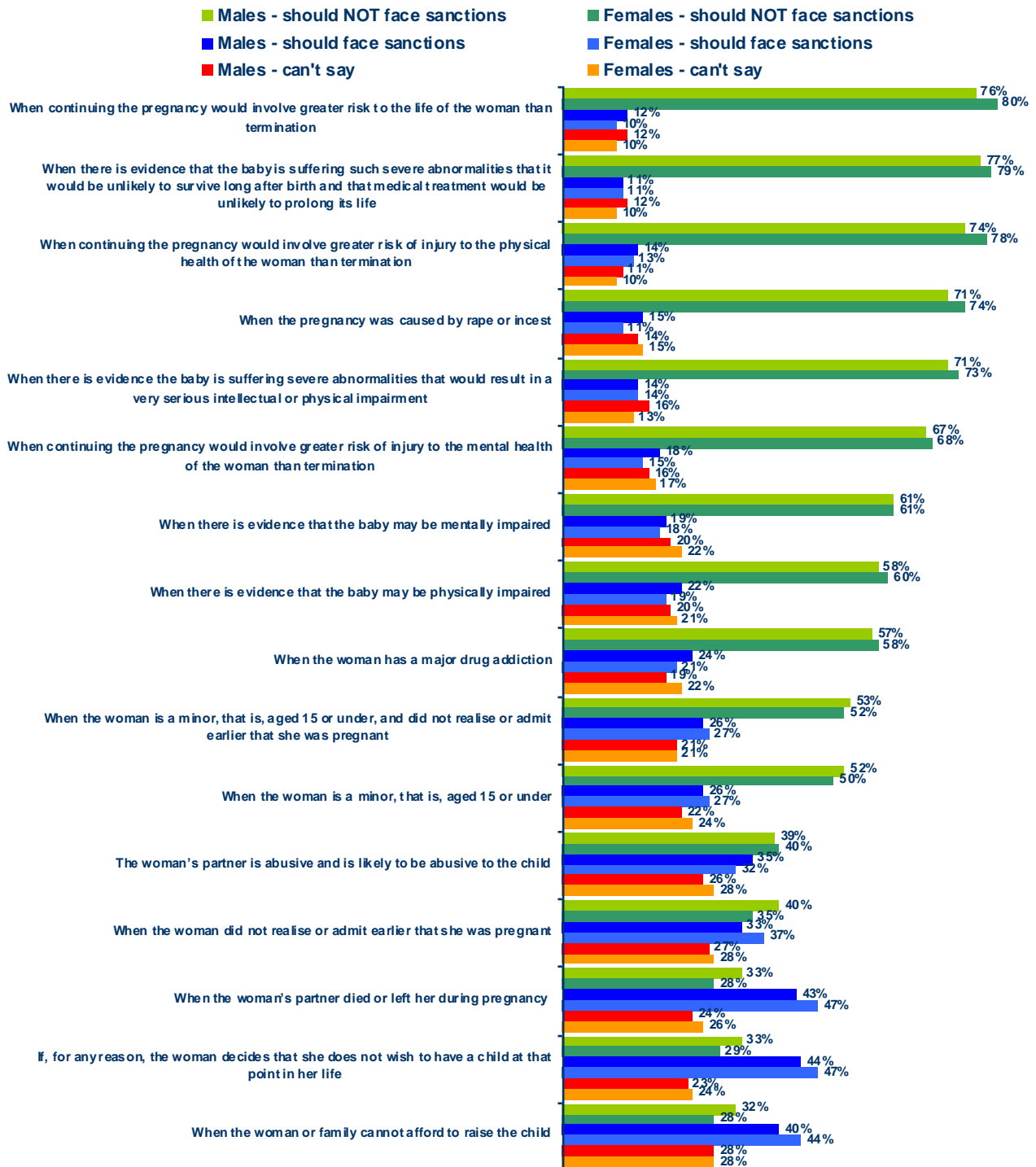


Table 4: Attitudes of Females overall and Females who have had a termination
Should a doctor face sanctions for performing an abortion after 24 weeks?
(Females n=418, Females who have had a termination n=74)

Of the female respondents, 17% indicated they had personally had a pregnancy termination. Females who have had terminations were more likely to oppose sanctions than the female population generally (differences, 6–20 percentage points; maximum CI, ±6.9–11.5 percentage points).

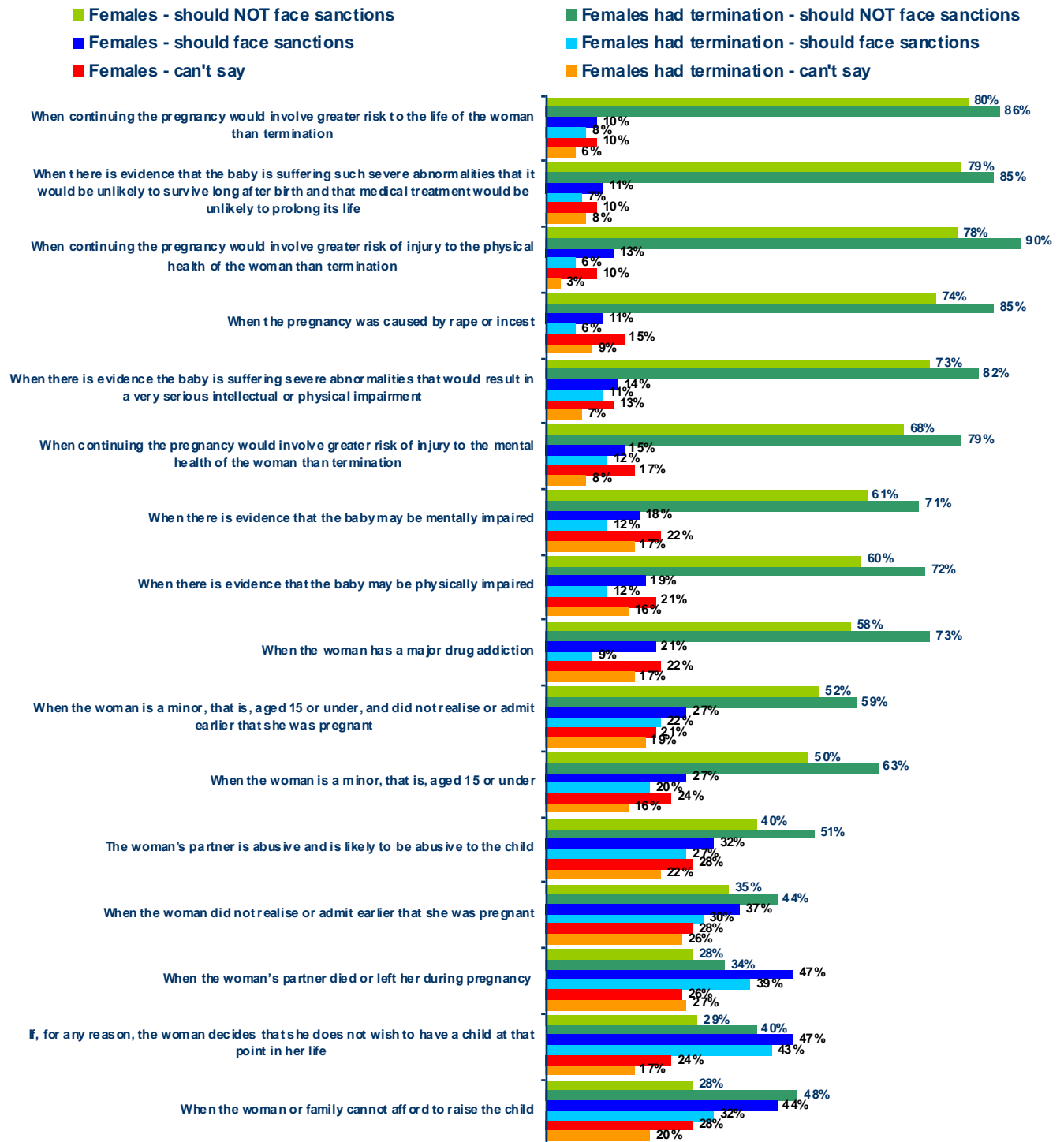


Table 5: Attitudes of Australians 18-44 years and 45 years and over
Should a doctor face sanctions for performing an abortion after 24 weeks?
(Australians 18-44 years n=393, Australians 45+ years n=408)

Respondents aged 45 years and older were more likely to oppose sanctions than those aged 18–44 years (differences, 2–12 percentage points; maximum CI, ±4.3–5.0 percentage points).

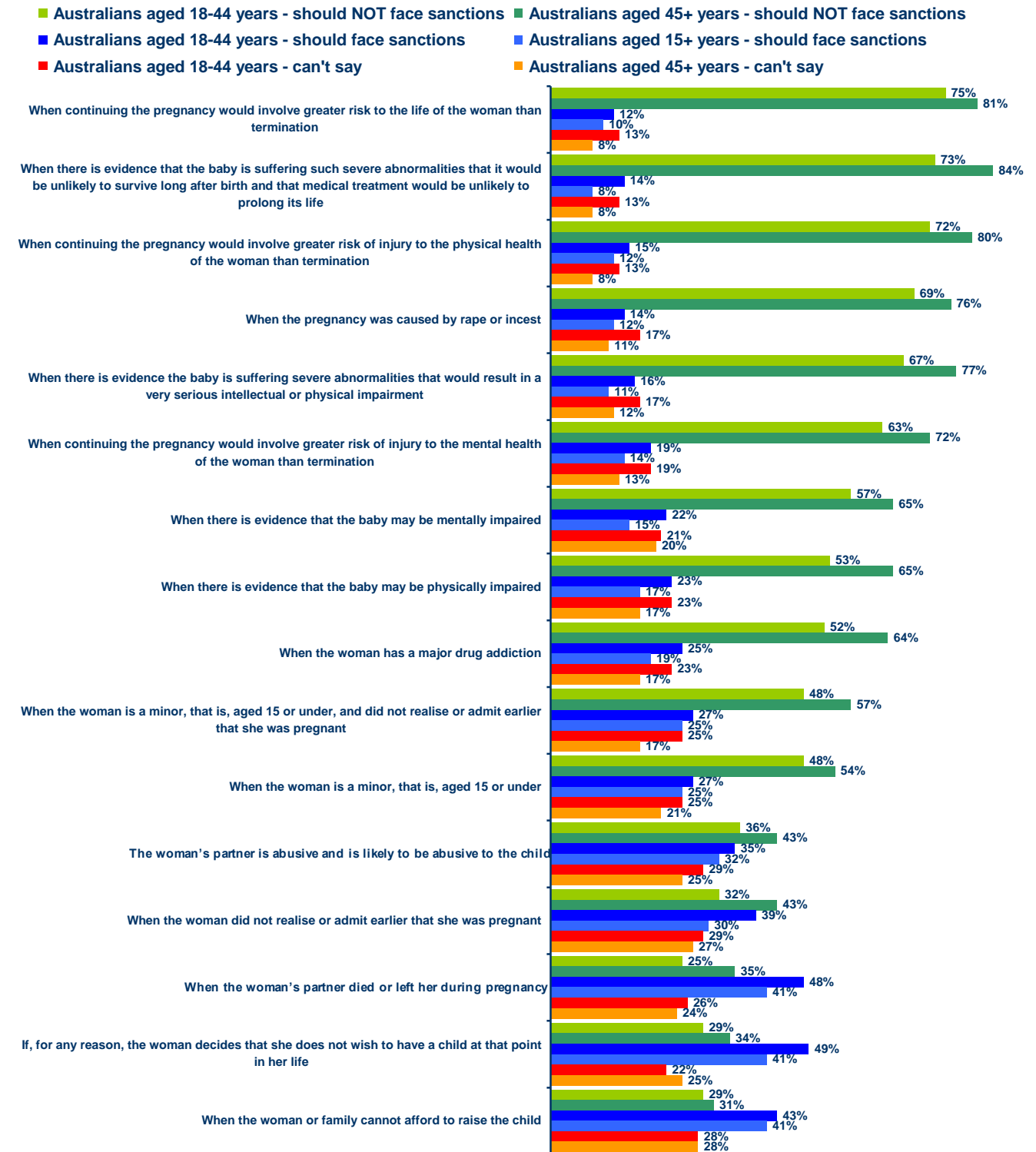


Table 6: Attitudes of Australians with and without religious affiliation

Should a doctor face sanctions for performing an abortion after 24 weeks? (Australians who nominate a religious affiliation n=549, Australians without religious affiliation n=219)

Respondents who nominated a religious affiliation were slightly more likely to support sanctions than those who reported no religion (differences, 2–10 percentage points; maximum CI, ±3.4–6.6 percentage points).

