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# Update to Survey of Public Attitudes to Organ Donation: Key figures from Wave 13

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## 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 March 2020. This report provides an update on key figures from wave 13 (March 2017 omnibus). A full report presenting detailed findings from wave 13 and wave 14 (September 2017 omnibus) will be published in December 2017.

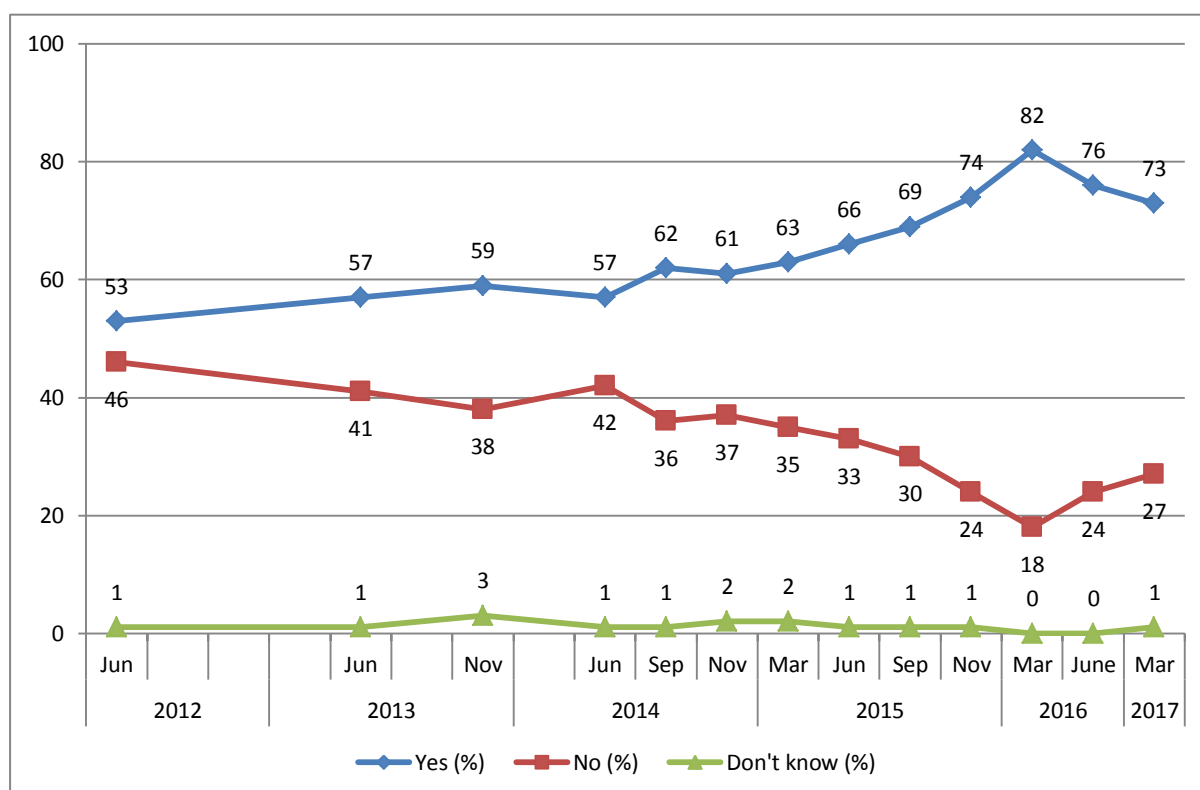
Fieldwork for wave 13 was conducted between 27 February and 12 March 2017 (1,035 respondents). A few interviews were conducted after these dates. The survey is designed to be representative of the population resident in Wales aged 16 years and over.

## Key findings

### 1. Awareness and understanding of changes to the organ donation system

Respondents were asked, unprompted, if they were aware of any changes that have taken place to organ donation system. In wave 12, over three quarters of respondents (76 per cent) reported that they were aware of changes. This decreased to 73 per cent in wave 13.

**Figure 1: Are you aware of any changes that have taken place to the organ donation system? <sup>a</sup>**



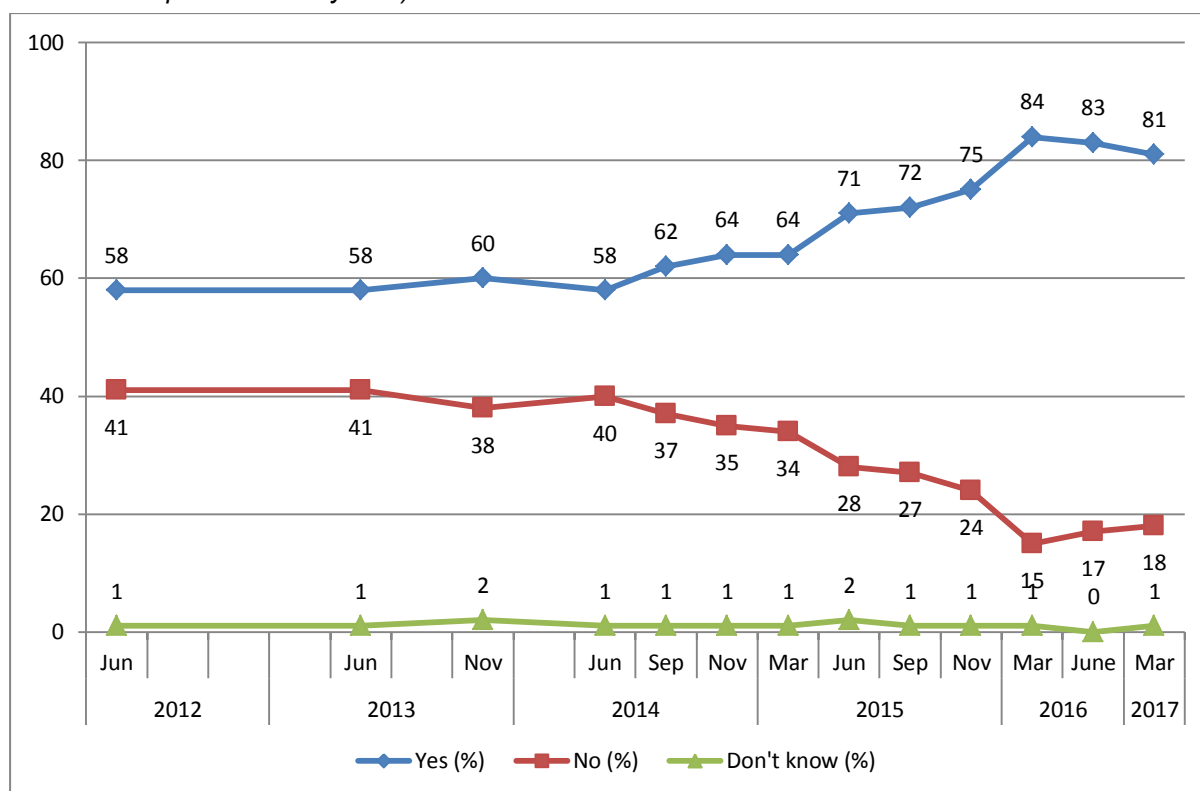
Base: 1,006 (W1 June 2012); 1,015 (W2 June 2013); 1,022 (W3 November 2013); 1,029 (W4 June 2014); 1,002 (W5 September 2014); 1,003 (W6 November 2014); 1,022 (W7 March 2015); 1,018 (W8 June 2015); 1,008 (W9 September 2015); 1,000 (W10 November 2015); 1,007 (W11 March 2016); 1,011 (W12 June 2016), 1,035 (W13 March 2017).

(a) In waves 1 and 2, respondents were asked 'Are you aware of any proposed changes to the current organ donation system?'; In waves 3 to 12 respondents were asked 'Are you aware of any changes that will be taking place to the current organ donation system'.

## 2. 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 12, over four fifths (83 per cent) reported that they had seen or heard something about the change. This decreased to 81 per cent in wave 13.

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



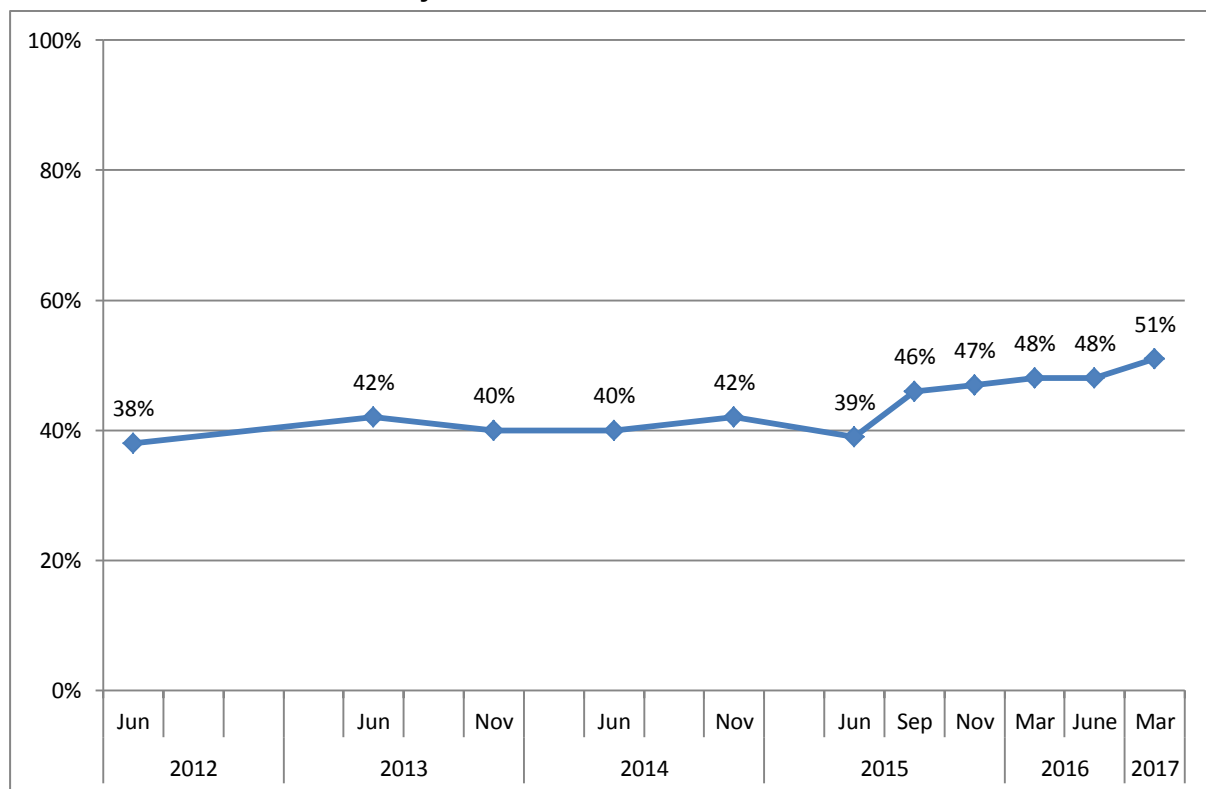
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(a) In waves 1 and 2, respondents were asked 'Before today, have you seen or heard anything about this proposal at all?'

### 3. 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 12, 48 per cent of respondents that said they had discussed their wishes with a family member. This increased to 51 per cent in wave 13.

**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); 1,007 (W11 March 2016); 1,011 (W12 June 2016), 1,035 (W13 March 2017).

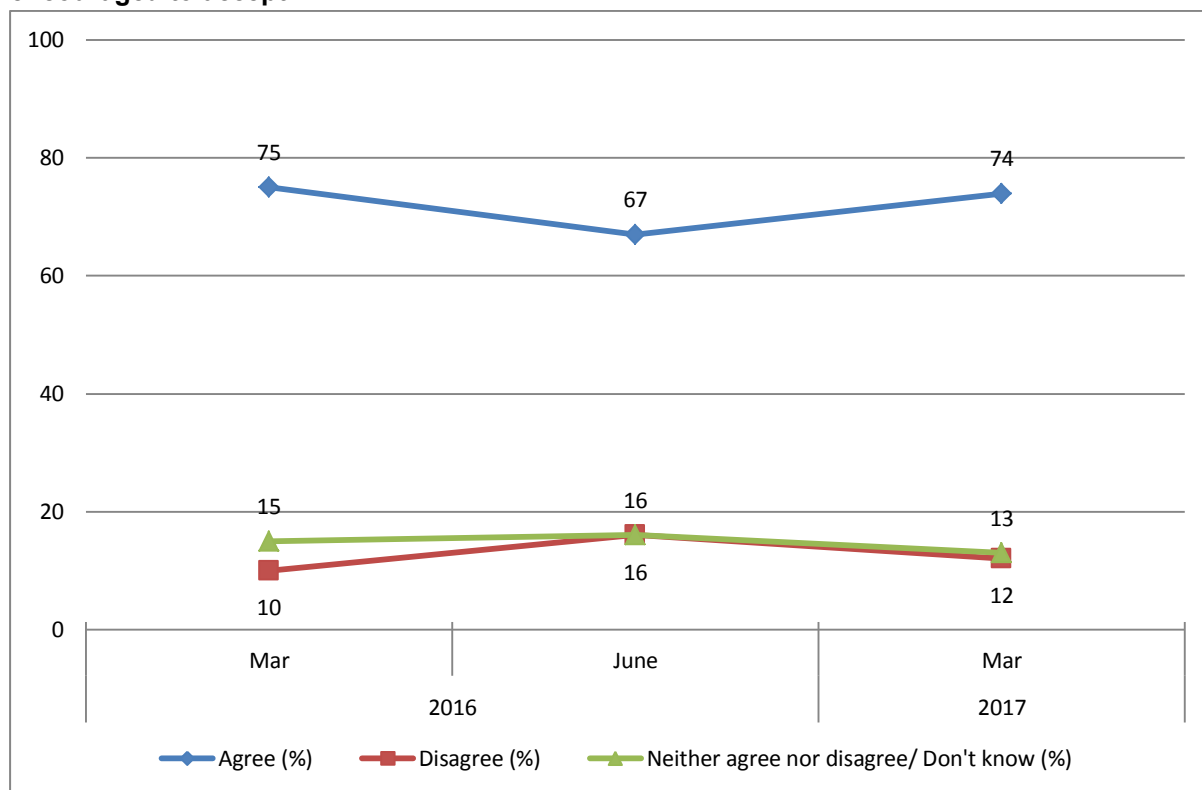
### 4. Attitudes towards changes to the organ donation system

In wave 13 respondents were asked ‘To what extent do you agree or disagree that, if an individual chooses not to register a decision, this should be treated as a decision to be a donor which families should be encouraged to accept?’

Previously, in wave 12, around two thirds of respondents (67 per cent) agreed that if an individual chooses not to register a decision, this should be treated as a decision to be a donor which families should be encouraged to accept, around one in six (16 per cent) disagreed with this statement and 16 per cent neither agreed or disagreed, or didn’t know.

In wave 13, those who agreed with the statement increased by seven percentage points to 74 per cent. Over one in ten disagreed (12 per cent) and 13 per cent neither agreed or disagreed, or didn’t know.

**Figure 4: 'To what extent do you agree or disagree that, if an individual chooses not to register a decision, this should be treated as a decision to be a donor which families should be encouraged to accept?'**



Base: 1,007 (W11 March 2016); 1,011 (W12 June 2016), 1,035 (W13 March 2017).

## Next Steps

A full report presenting detailed findings from wave 13 and wave 14 of the survey will be published in December 2017.

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