

SAGA/POPULUS PANEL RESULTS

Populus received 6583 responses from adults aged 50 and over to its online poll for SAGA between 19th and 24th October 2007. Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. For more details go to www.populuslimited.com.

DEMOGRAPHICS

	Total	6583	100%
Gender	Male	4019	61%
	Female	2564	39%
Age	50 – 54	1175	18%
	55 – 59	1824	28%
	60 – 64	1684	26%
	65 and over	1900	29%
Grandchildren or children?	Children but no grandchildren	2238	34%
	Grandchildren	3411	52%
	Neither	934	14%
Socio-Economic Group	AB	3883	59%
	C1	1822	28%
	C2	613	9%
	DE	265	4%
ITV Region	LWT/Carlton (London)	1242	19%
	Meridian (South)	888	13%
	HTV West / West Country (South West)	547	8%
	HTV Wales (Wales)	250	4%
	Central East (East Midlands)	374	6%
	Anglia (Eastern)	571	9%
	Yorkshire (Yorkshire & Humberside)	592	9%
	Granada / Border (North West)	671	10%
	Tyne Tees (North East)	241	4%
	Central / Central West (West Midlands)	661	10%
	Border Scotland / Scottish / Grampian (Scotland)	507	8%
	UTV (Northern Ireland)	39	1%

TOPICAL ISSUES

- When asked to choose between the Labour Government's new policy of allowing married couples and civil partners to transfer their allowances to each other, and the Conservative policy of raising the threshold for Inheritance Tax to £1million, nearly two thirds (61%) favoured the Conservatives' proposal.
- Only 28% favoured the Labour changes, while 4% thought that the threshold should not be raised at all and a further 6% had no opinion.
- Respondents were also asked about the recent announcement by the Labour government to review the laws of self defence. Only 2% thought that the existing laws on self defence were sufficient and did not need clarifying, although a further quarter (27%) thought that they were sufficient as long as the term 'proportionate force' was clarified.
- Over two thirds (71%) believed that existing laws were insufficient because the idea of 'proportionate force' does not give enough support to those who are trying to prevent crimes.
- More than two fifths (41%) said that they thought the term 'Saga Lout' was humorous and harmless. However, nearly a third (31%) thought that it was offensive to older people in general and a further 29% believed it trivialised a serious issue.
- Younger people were more likely to believe that the phrase was humorous; 47% of 50 - 54 year olds agreed with this while only 34% of those aged 65 and over did so. Similarly, less than a quarter (23%) of 50 - 54 year olds thought it was offensive, while 39% of 65 and overs did. The proportion who thought it represented the trivialising of a serious issue remained steady throughout the age ranges.
- More than four fifths (82%) of the Saga panel said that they would not pay to take a tourist trip into space if such trips became available and affordable in their lifetime. Younger people, however, were slightly more likely to want to do so than those who were older.

ACCESS TO DRUGS ON THE NHS

Are you aware of the role of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) in determining whether certain drugs and treatments should be provided free at the point of use on the NHS?	Yes	83%
	No	14%
	Don't know	3%
Do you think you have you ever been denied certain drugs or treatments on the NHS on the basis of cost?	Yes	15%
	No	72%
	Don't know	13%
Would you be prepared to pay out of your own pocket for certain drugs or treatments for conditions like cancer if these weren't available on the NHS because NICE had ruled them not to be cost-effective?	Yes	52%
	No	23%
	Don't know	25%
Would you be prepared to take drugs in the form of a daily pill to prevent future diseases such as heart disease or stroke?	Yes	81%
	No	9%
	Don't know	10%
Would you be prepared to pay out of you own pocket for these kinds of drugs if they weren't available on the NHS?	Yes	45%
	No	29%
	Don't know	26%

- Women were less likely than men to say that they would be prepared to take drugs in the form of a daily pill to prevent future diseases such as heart disease and stroke (85% and 73% respectively).
- Those who said that they would be prepared to pay for treatments for certain conditions or for a 'prevention pill' were then asked how much they would pay. Respondents said they would pay an average of £30.14 for treatments and £13.59 for a pill that prevented future diseases.
- In both cases, men were prepared to pay slightly more than women.