

Canadian Perspectives on End-of-Life Autonomy and Medical Assistance in Dying Expansion

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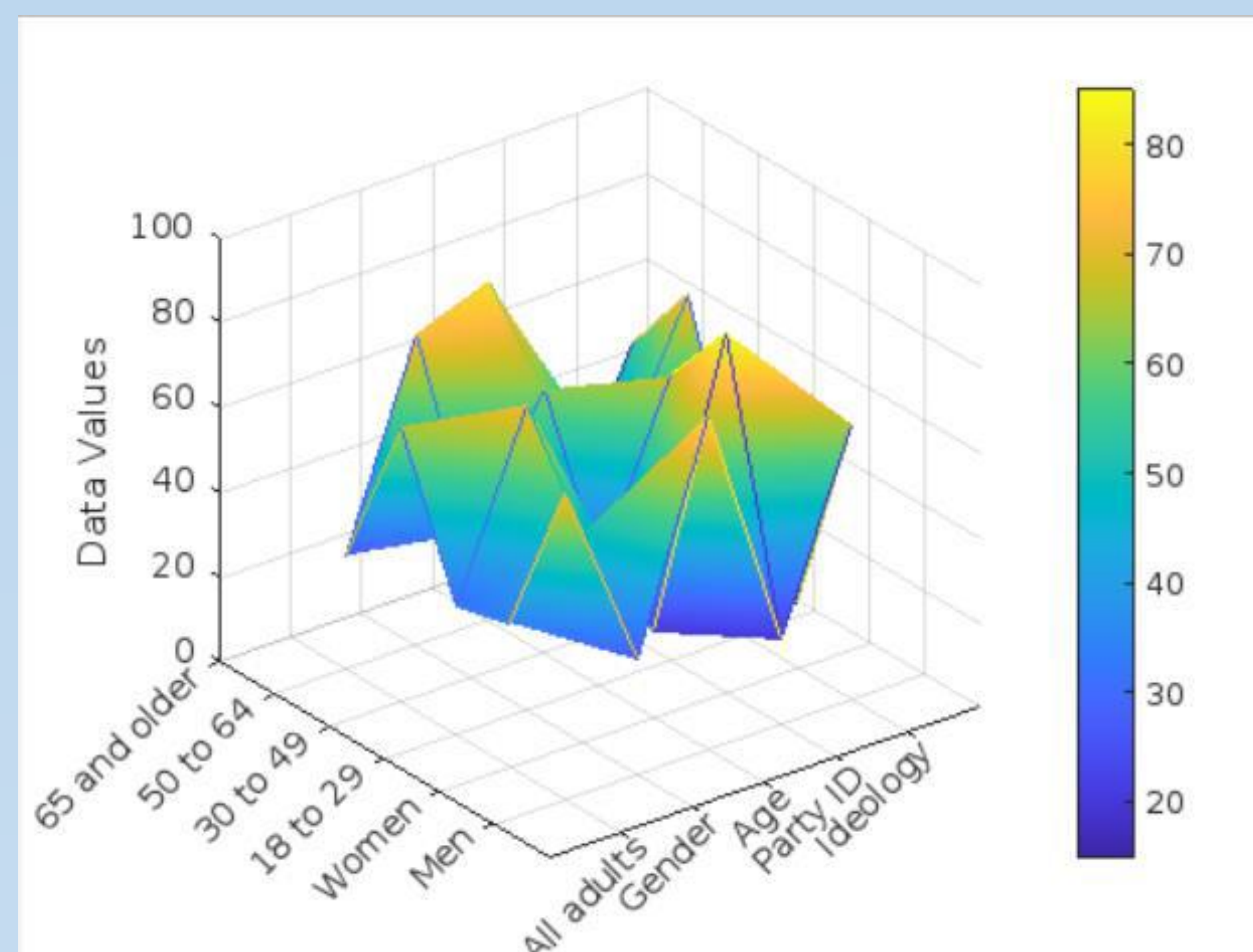


MAID and Disability Rights

Debates on disability rights and MAID involve concerns about societal biases and ableism influencing decision-making. The social model of disability critiques assumptions in MAID policies that may stigmatize people with disabilities. Historical eugenics movements shape attitudes towards disability and end-of-life care, impacting current debates on MAID and disability rights.

Introduction

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) has been a contentious issue in Canada, with significant advancements and expansions in recent years. The legalization of MAID in Canada began in 2016, following the landmark Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Carter v. Canada*, which ruled that the prohibition on physician-assisted dying was unconstitutional. This decision paved the way for the passing of Bill C 14, which established the legal framework for MAID in Canada. Since then, there have been ongoing debates and discussions about expanding access to MAID for individuals with various medical conditions.



(Brenan, 2018) Liberals and infrequent churchgoers are much more likely than their conservative and weekly churchgoing counterparts to say doctor-assisted suicide is morally acceptable. Catholics and Protestants are evenly divided.

Canada vs. United States

In 2016, Canada decriminalized MAID with Bill C 14, setting strict criteria for those with severe medical conditions to access assisted dying. This shift emphasized patient-centered care, focusing on autonomy and compassion. In the US, only a few states allow medically assisted death, leading to a divisive debate between pro-life advocates and pro-choice supporters. These differing views stem from ethical and religious beliefs, shaping policies on medical intervention for terminally ill patients. The complex legal landscape reflects ongoing discussions on individual rights and compassionate end-of-life care.

Methodology

Existing research, legislative documents, and case studies can build a comprehensive overview. Special emphasis is placed on the experiences of individuals with disabilities, differences of MAID with suicide, and the divergent views between Canada and the United States on MAID practices. MATLAB tool helped with visualization of data.

References

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