

# Attitudes to Abortion

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October 2014

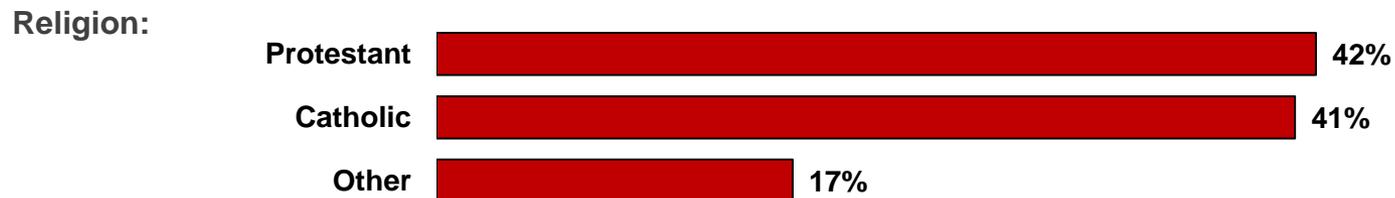
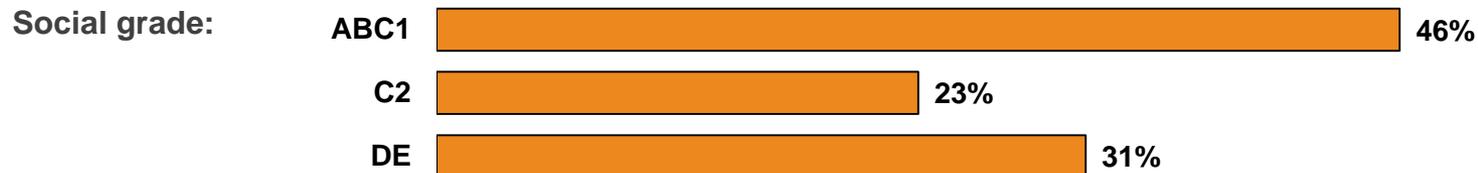
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 **MillwardBrown**



## Research Objectives and Methodology

- The Millward Brown Omnibus Survey is a twice monthly face-to-face survey conducted amongst a representative sample of the Northern Ireland population.
- Each survey consists of a freshly drawn sample of 1000 adults aged 16+.
- The sample is quota controlled to represent the Northern Ireland population in terms of sex, age and social class. 60 sampling points are drawn using a stratified random sampling method to ensure that the sample is representative in terms of region.
- The sample is not designed to be representative by religion or voting intentions however this question was included in order to understand whether there were differences in opinion here
- While the sampling method is not purely random, indicative statistical significance figures can be applied to findings especially in comparing findings across various groupings. For this survey the margin of error would be +/- 3% based on the total sample of 1000

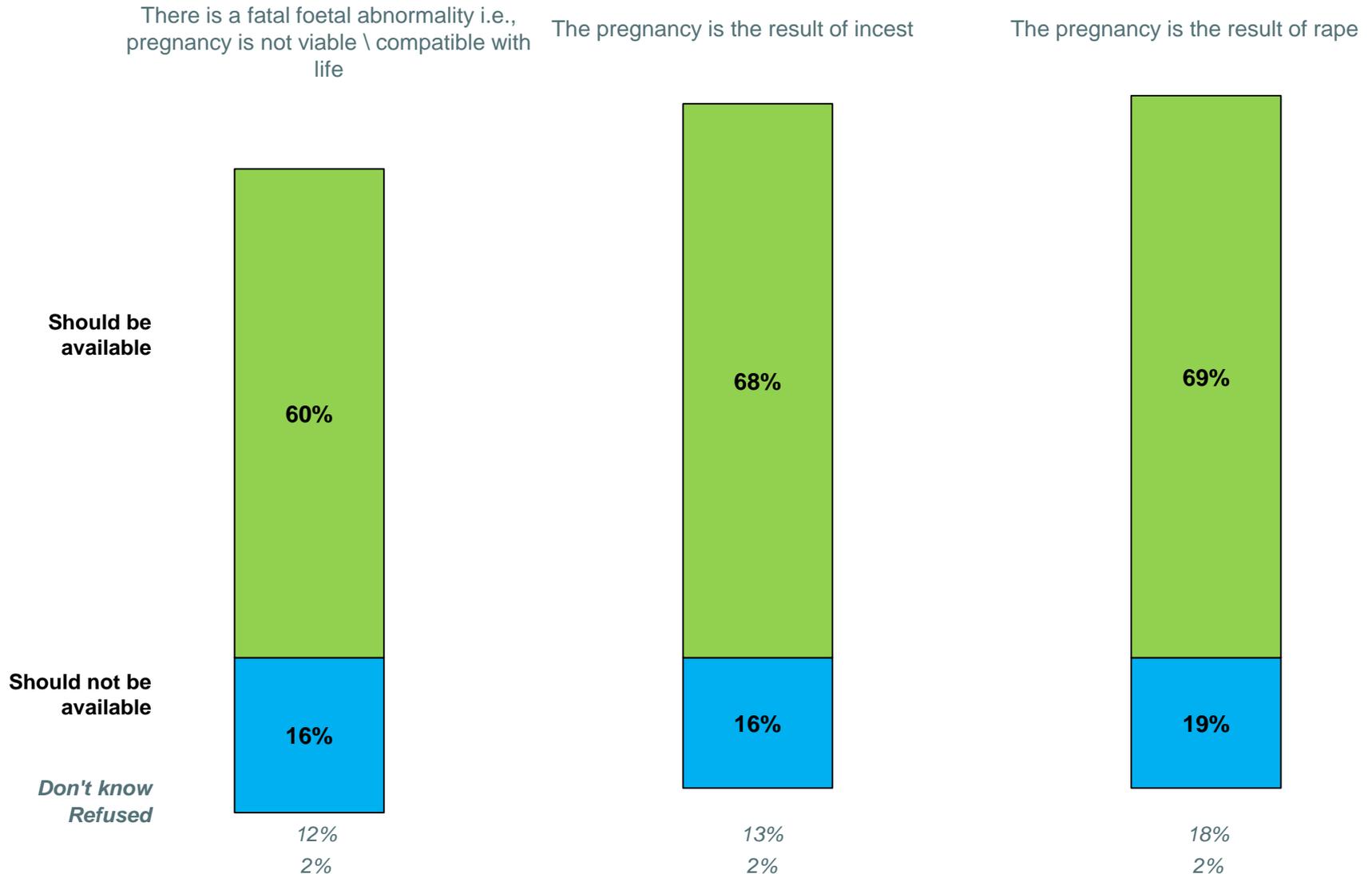


# Main Findings



FINDINGS

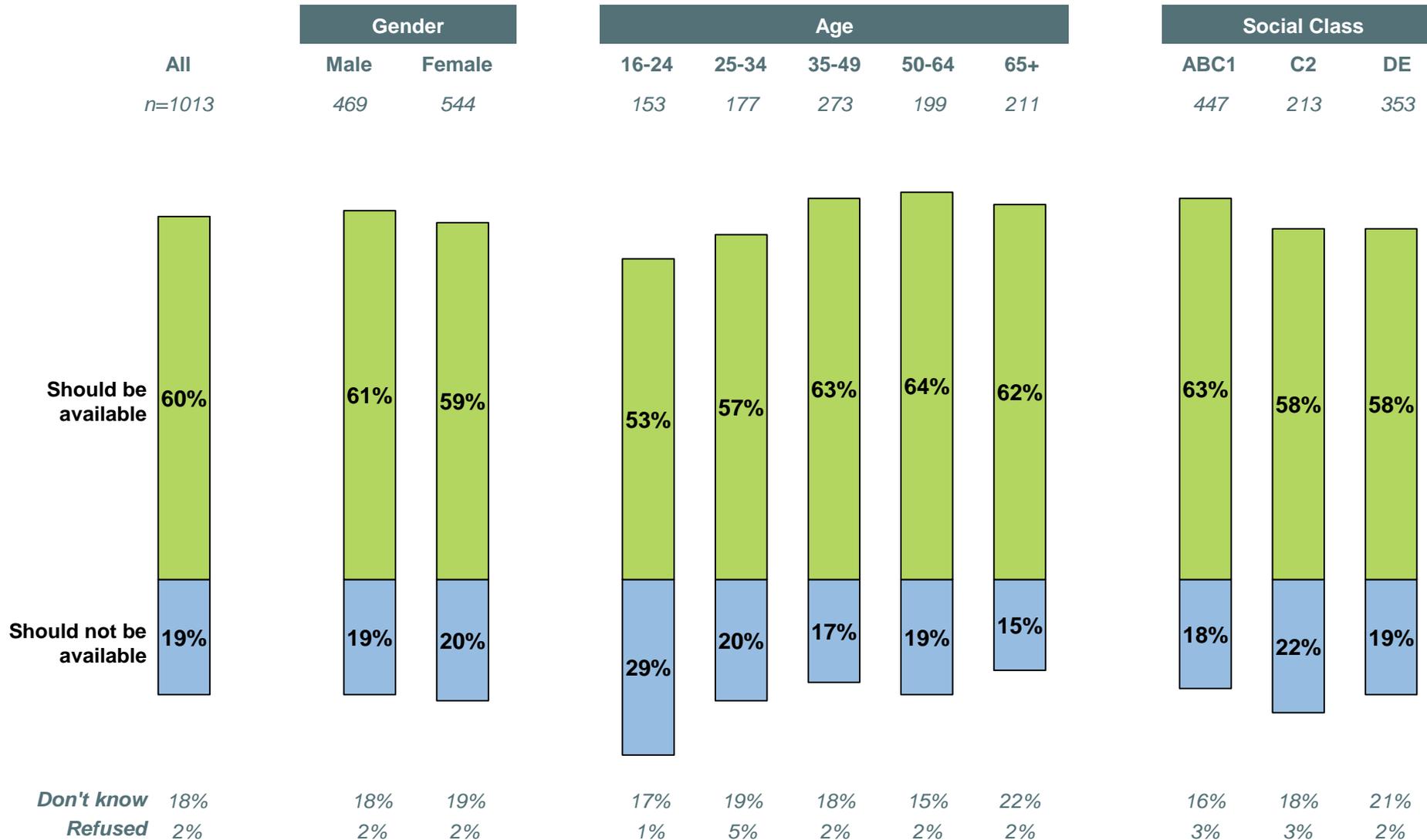
- The summary shows that between 6 and 7 in 10 of the sample feel that abortion should be made available in certain circumstances.
- Rape and incest are the most compelling reasons for making abortion available.



**Q1. Think abortion services should be available ... SUMMARY OF ALL RESPONSES**

[ Base: All respondents – n=1013 ]

- When there is a fatal foetal abnormality, 6 in 10 were supportive of the availability of abortion.
- Support rises with age with a 9 percentage point difference between the youngest and the oldest. There were no significant differences between ABC1s and C2s or DEs.



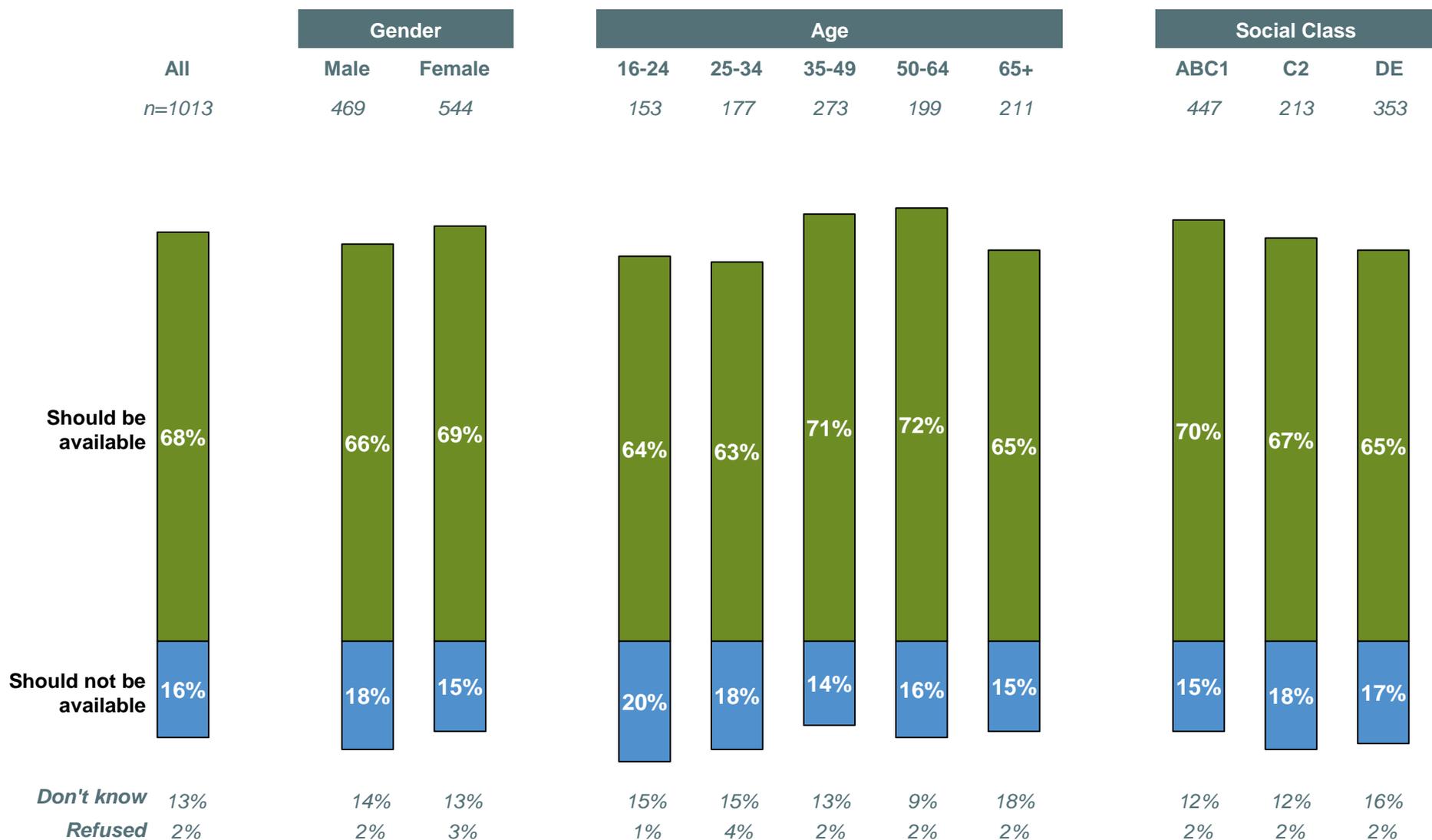
Q1c. Think abortion services should be available - There is a fatal foetal abnormality i.e., pregnancy is not viable \ compatible with life [ Base: All respondents – n=1013 ]

- We can see a higher levels of support amongst Protestants when compared with Catholics (13percentage point difference). The most significant support came from those within the other/no religion categories (71%).
- There were also moderately higher levels of support from Unionist/Loyalist/other voters when compared with Nationalist/Republican voters (14/19 percentage points).



Q1c. Think abortion services should be available - There is a fatal foetal abnormality i.e., pregnancy is not viable \ compatible with life [ Base: All respondents – n=1013 ]

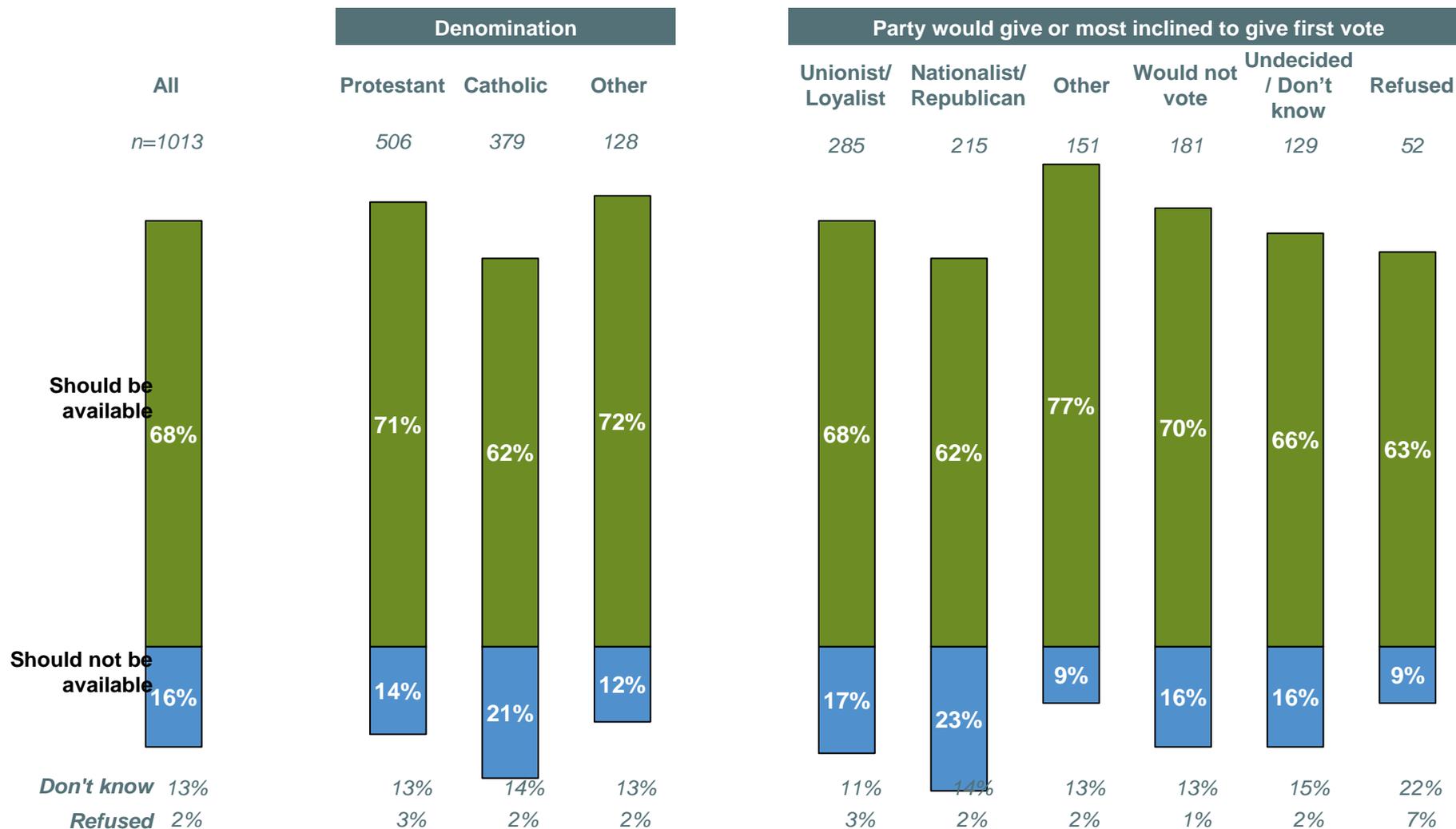
- When the pregnancy is the result of incest, 7 in 10 were supportive of the availability of abortion.
- Support was higher for the 35-64 year olds. There were no significant differences by gender, and social class.



**Q1b. Think abortion services should be available - The pregnancy is the result of incest**

[ Base: All respondents – n=1013 ]

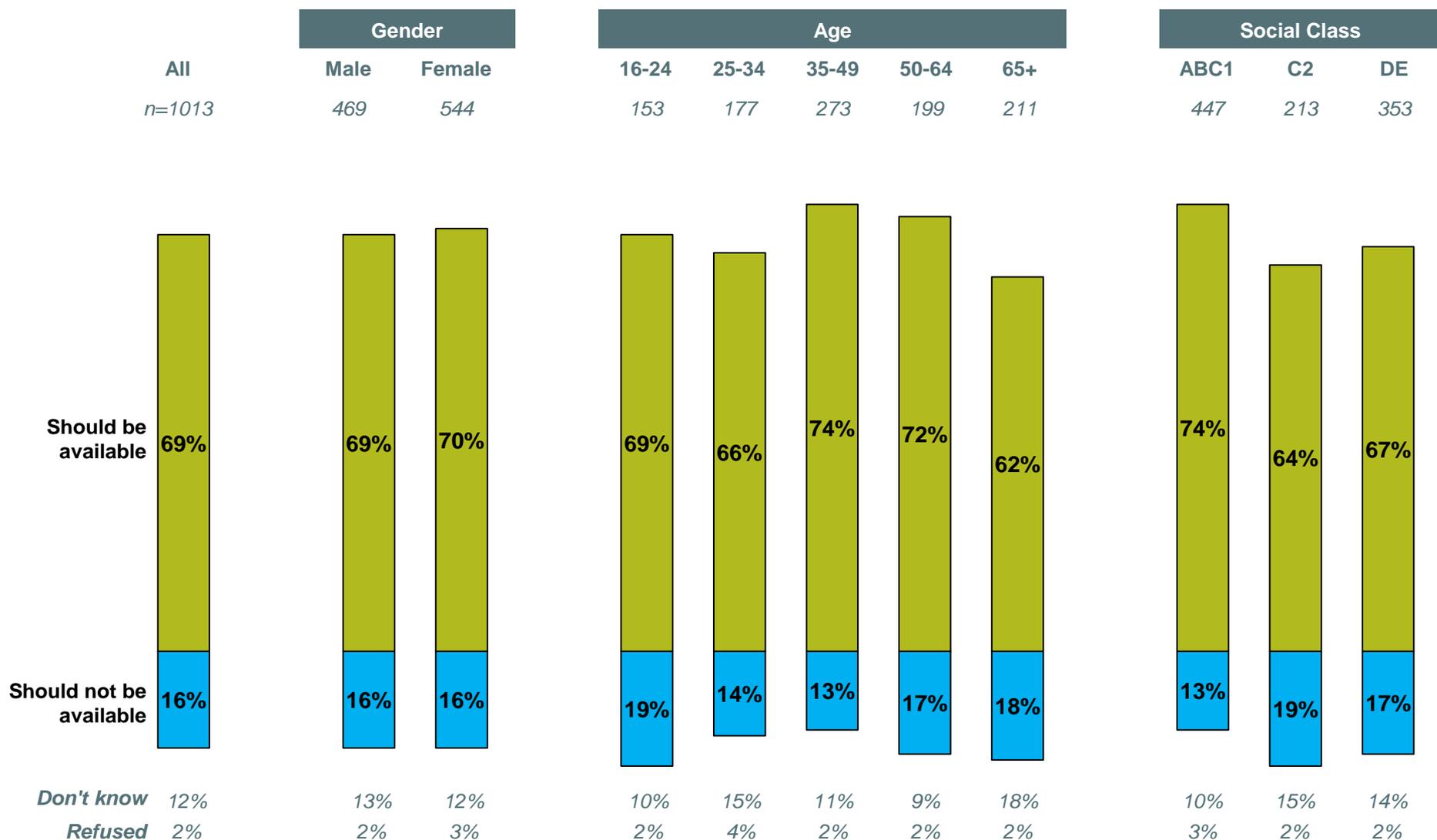
- We can see a higher levels of support amongst Protestants/Other/No religion when compared with Catholics (9/10 percentage point difference).
- Those who were voting for parties other than Unionist/Loyalist/Nationalist/Republican were more in favour (77%).



Q1b. Think abortion services should be available - The pregnancy is the result of incest

[ Base: All respondents – n=1013 ]

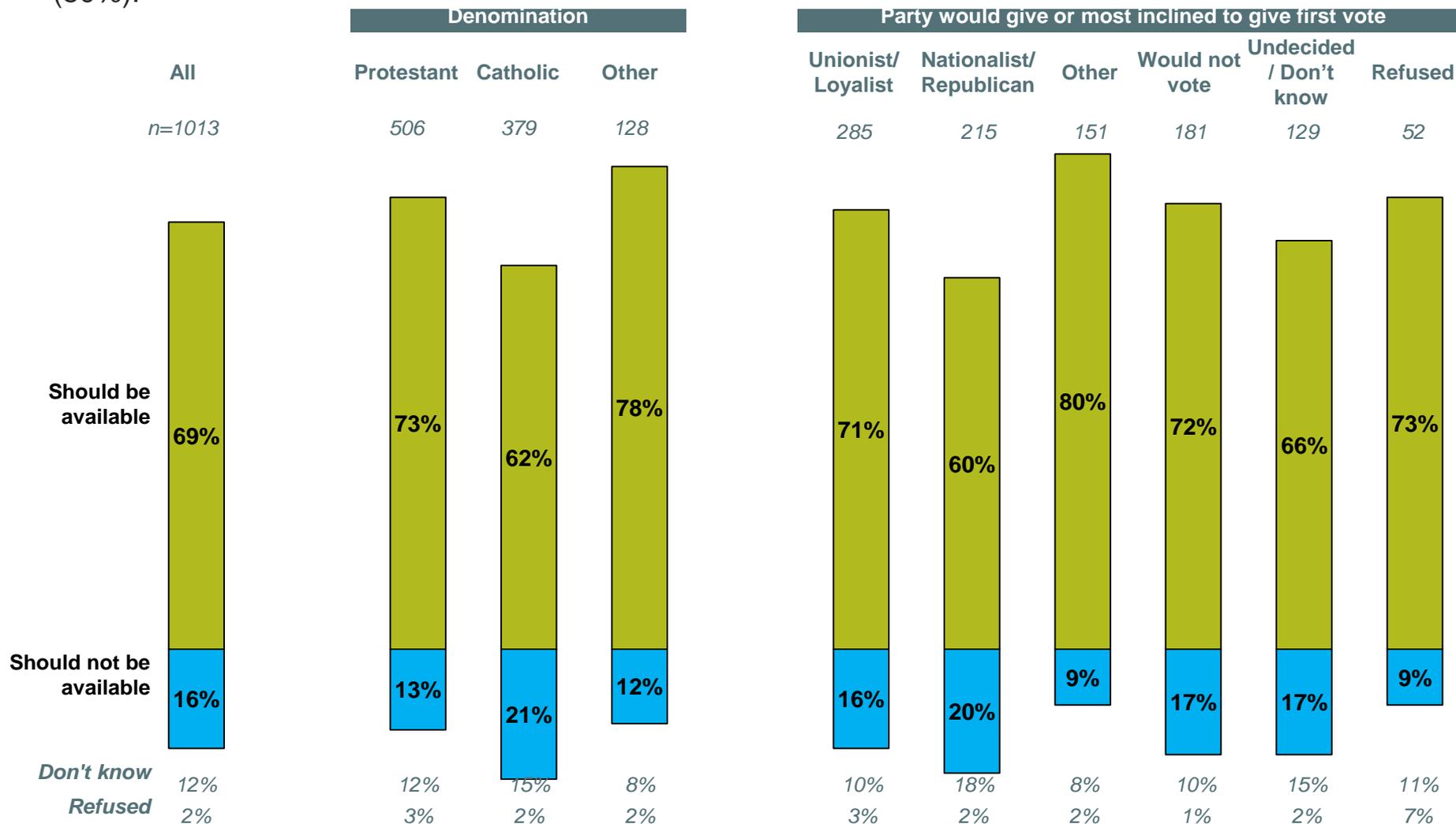
- When the pregnancy is the result of rape, 7 in 10 were supportive of the availability of abortion.
- Support peaked at 74% amongst the 35-49 year olds; and there was a ten percentage point difference between ABC1s and C2s. There were no differences by gender.



Q1a. Think abortion services should be available - The pregnancy is the result of rape

[ Base: All respondents – n=1013 ]

- We can see a higher levels of support amongst Protestants when compared with Catholics (11 percentage point difference). Those who coded 'other/no religion' were also significantly more likely to express their support (78%).
- There were also moderately higher levels of support from Unionist/Loyalist voters when compared with Nationalist/Republican voters (11 pps)
- Those who were voting for parties other than Unionist/Loyalist/Nationalist/Republican were strongly in favour (80%).



Q1a. Think abortion services should be available - The pregnancy is the result of rape

[ Base: All respondents – n=1013 ]

# Conclusions

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- Overall between 6 and 7 in 10 of the total population sample support abortion in certain circumstances.
- Rape and incest are the most compelling reasons for making abortion available.
- Support is often moderately higher amongst Protestants, those of other or no religion, Unionist/Loyalists; those who vote for parties other than Unionist/Loyalist/Nationalist/Republican ABC1s and the those between the ages of 35 and 64 years.