



Planning Ahead

Nationwide Public Opinion Survey

Date: 28th May 2020
REF: 446320



REDC

Project Background & Research Objectives

- / Safeguarding Ireland promotes safeguarding of vulnerable adults to protect them from all forms of abuse by persons, organisations and institutions and to develop a national plan for promoting their welfare.
- / To achieve this, Safeguarding Ireland regularly undertakes **public awareness campaigns**, while also informing and influencing **Government policy and legislation** in relation to safeguarding issues.
- / A **public opinion survey** was carried out to understand attitudes towards planning ahead for future decisions regarding healthcare and finances. The need to plan ahead is all the more pressing in context of the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and it is of particular interest to see if this has had an impact on people's behaviour in relation to planning ahead.
- / The following questions were asked:
 - If people have taken any specific actions for planning ahead before/after COVID-19 or are now considering doing so as result of COVID-19
 - If they have encountered any difficulties when planning ahead for their future healthcare wishes
 - How important they consider it is to have different plans in place



Research Methodology

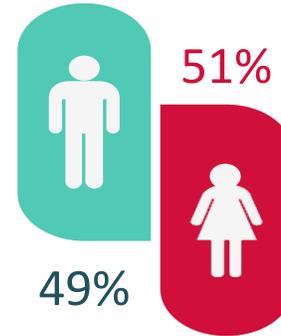
- / Research was conducted using RED C's online omnibus, the RED Line.
- / Through our online panel of **over 40,000 members**, the RED Line service allowed us to reach a representative sample of the adult population 18+ across Ireland in a cost effective and timely manner.
- / **Quota controls** were used to ensure a nationally representative sample of ROI adults aged 18+, with **interlocking quotas** to provide extra confidence in sample profile.
- / Data was weighted across gender, age, region and social class so as to ensure a nationally representative sample based on latest **CSO projections**.
- / **N=1,001 respondents** took part in this survey between **7th-12th May 2020**.



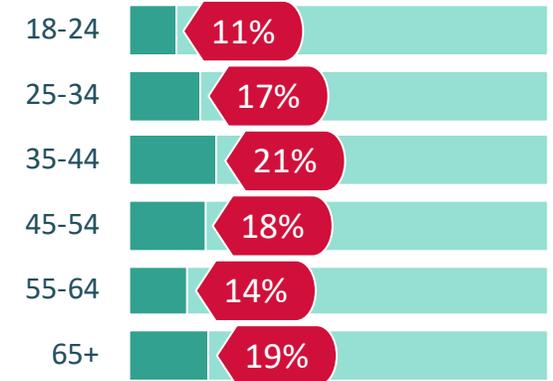
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Weighted to be representative of all adults aged 18+ using the latest CSO census data on the following demographics.

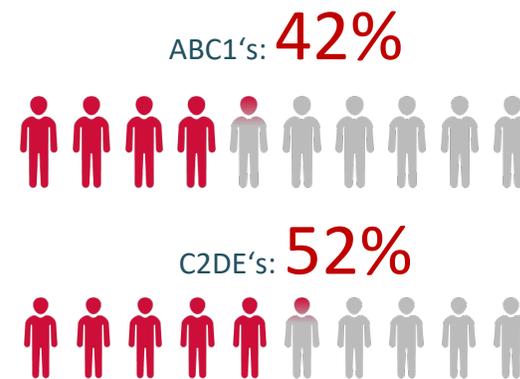
Gender



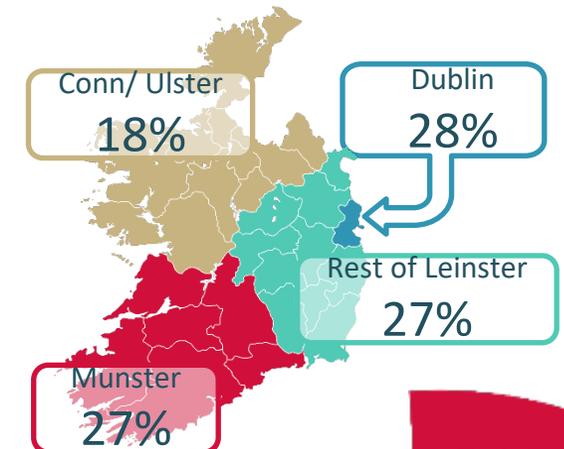
Age



Social Class



Region



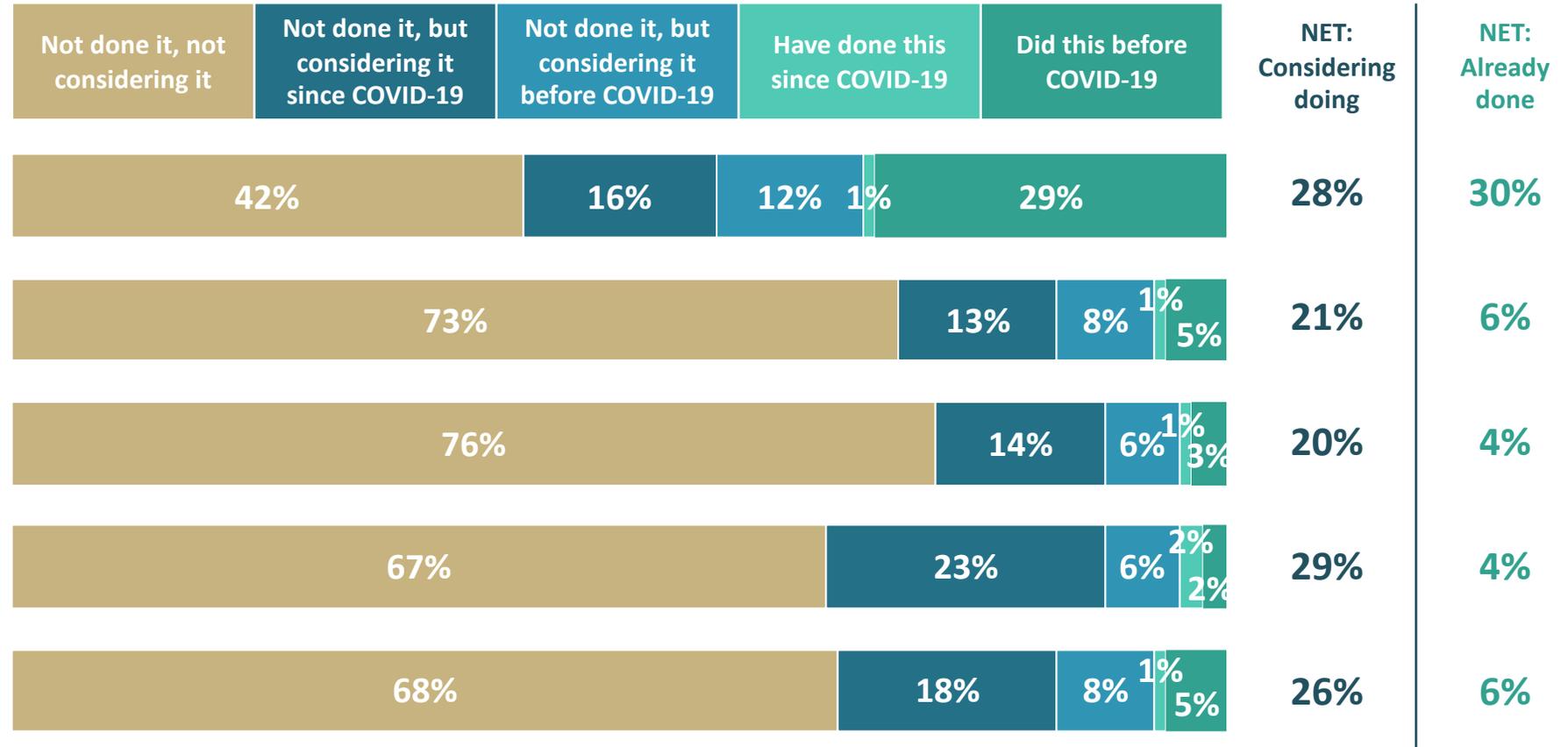


**Key findings from the research
on planning ahead**

Making a will is the most common step taken to plan ahead, whilst COVID-19 has prompted some to consider taking steps to plan ahead

Base: All Adults Aged 18+; n=1,001

Q.1 Have you done any of the following?



Whilst COVID-19 hasn't necessarily resulted in people in taking specific actions to plan ahead, it has prompted some to consider making plans – most notably, just less than one-in-five are now planning on completing the Think Ahead form.



Most people have yet to formalise their future healthcare wishes – however, COVID-19 has prompted nearly one-in-four to give this some consideration

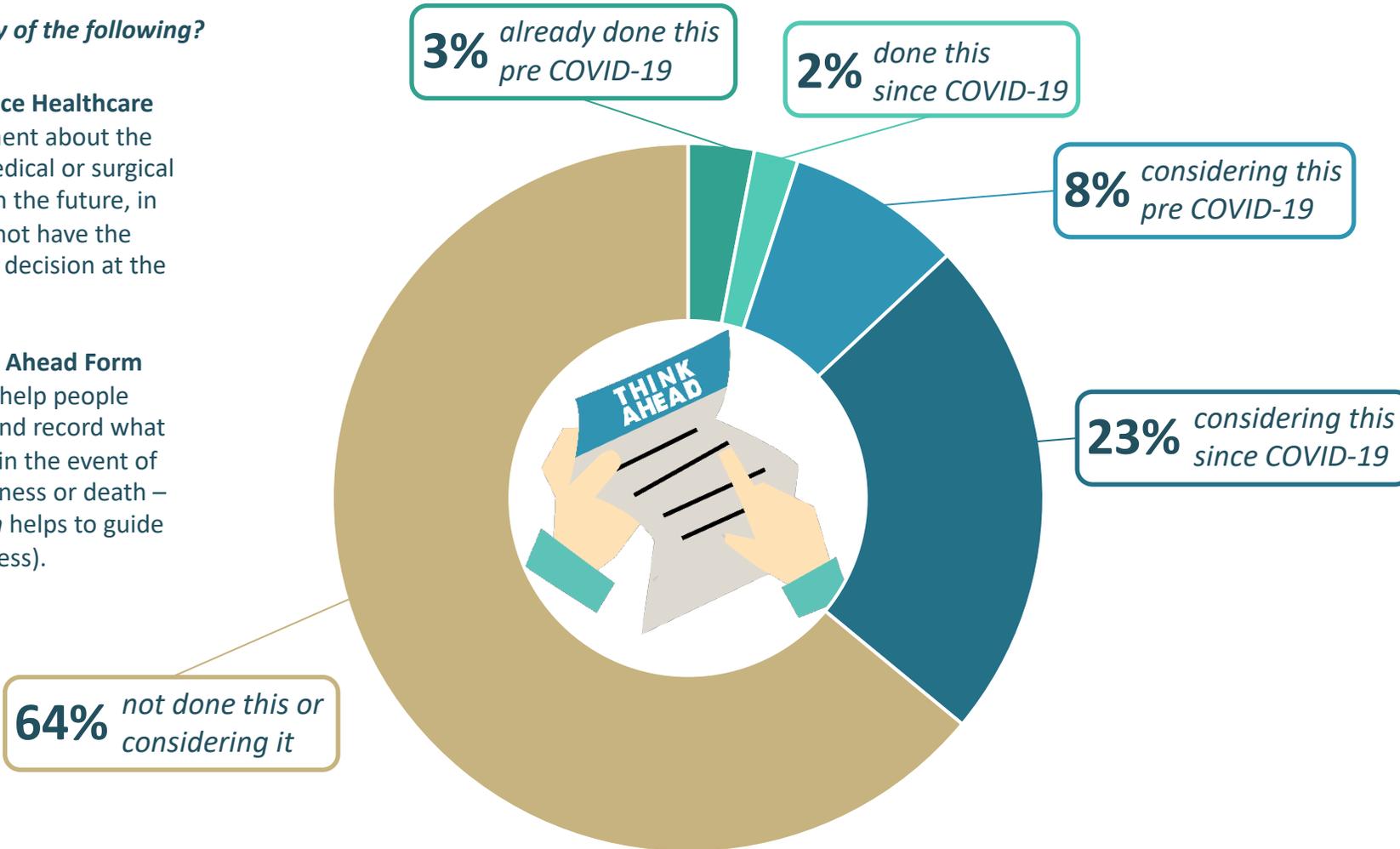
Base: All Adults Aged 18+; n=1,001

Actions taken regarding an Advance Healthcare Directive and/or the Think Ahead Form
% of Irish adults aged 18%

Q.1 Have you done any of the following?

Put in place an **Advance Healthcare Directive** i.e. a statement about the type and extent of medical or surgical treatment you want in the future, in the event you would not have the capacity to make that decision at the relevant time.

Completing the **Think Ahead Form** (*Think Ahead* aims to help people think about, discuss and record what their preferences are in the event of emergency, serious illness or death – the *Think Ahead Form* helps to guide you through this process).



95% of Irish adults aged 18+ have not formally recorded plans for their future healthcare wishes, either through an *Advance Healthcare Directive* or the *Think Ahead Form*.

Older age groups more likely to have taken steps and consider planning ahead

Base: All Adults Aged 18+; n=1,001

  Statistically significant higher lower v total at 95% confidence level

<i>Have done this before / since COVID-19</i>	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Rural	Single	Married / living as married	Widowed / divorced / separated
<i>Made a will</i>	30%	29%	31%	5%	12%	26%	55%	71%	35%	26%	29%	31%	11%	36%	52%
<i>Put in place Enduring Power of Attorney</i>	6%	7%	6%	5%	5%	4%	9%	10%	6%	8%	7%	5%	5%	7%	8%
<i>Put in place an Advance Healthcare Directive</i>	4%	3%	5%	4%	3%	2%	3%	6%	5%	4%	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%
<i>Completed the Think Ahead Form</i>	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%	2%	3%	6%	4%	4%	5%	2%	3%	4%	7%

<i>Considering doing this before / since COVID-19</i>	Total	Male	Female	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	Urban	Rural	Single	Married / living as married	Widowed / divorced / separated
<i>Made a will</i>	28%	26%	30%	16%	38%	45%	29%	21%	27%	30%	27%	31%	19%	32%	32%
<i>Put in place Enduring Power of Attorney</i>	21%	19%	24%	12%	20%	28%	21%	29%	22%	21%	21%	21%	15%	24%	23%
<i>Put in place an Advance Healthcare Directive</i>	20%	16%	24%	14%	14%	24%	27%	27%	21%	19%	20%	21%	14%	21%	33%
<i>Completed the Think Ahead Form</i>	29%	24%	34%	21%	25%	33%	33%	37%	29%	29%	29%	29%	24%	29%	43%

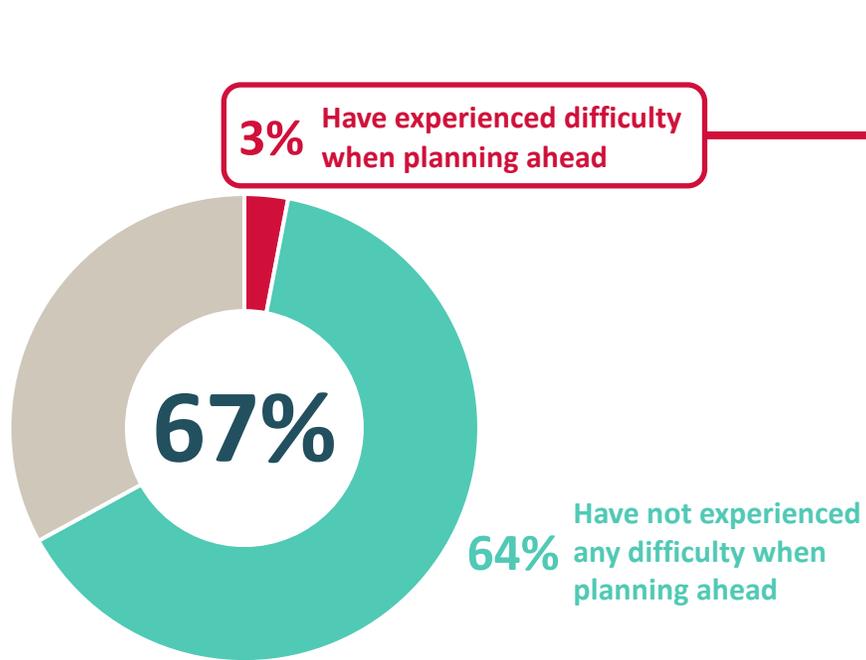
Most common action to plan ahead is making a will, especially amongst the 55+ age cohort, ABC1s and those that are married / living as married and those that are divorced, separated or widowed. Those in younger age groups less likely to have taken steps to plan ahead or to be considering doing so – those in older age groups much more likely to be planning ahead.



Of those that have planned ahead or are considering do so, few have encountered difficulties in doing this

Base: All Adults Aged 18+; n=1,001

Q.2 Have you experienced any difficulties when planning ahead for your future healthcare wishes? Are these difficulties in any way related to or made worse by COVID-19?



% of people aged 18+ that have planned ahead or are considering do so, including making a will, putting in place an Advanced Healthcare Directive, completed the Think Ahead Form or taken some other step to plan ahead

5% of those that have already planned ahead or are considering doing so have encountered some difficulty in putting plans in place. This is typically associated with:

- / concerns/reluctance to discuss planning ahead and death with family members;
- / the financial cost associated with planning ahead;
- / lack of awareness of the process and what forms need to be completed.

Few mention COVID-19 as being a particular obstacle to planning ahead – in a few instances this has been an issue due to difficulty of being able to consult / meet with healthcare professionals.

"I have no idea how to go about applying for these services."

"I can't plan ahead as I can't afford it and I don't know when I can."

"I don't know how to bring my wishes up to my family, and how to ensure that they will definitely follow them."

"COVID-19 makes it difficult to discuss health concerns with professionals over the phone instead of face-to-face."

"It is not straightforward when you don't have an immediate next of kin like a spouse or children. You have to have a conversation with siblings, solicitor, doctor."



**THANK
YOU**

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