

ARTICLE 153:
KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES
AMONG KUWAITI CITIZENS

Dr. Justin Gengler
24 September 2016

Overview



- Introduction
 - / Why are surveys important?
 - / What is unique about this survey?
- Survey methodology
- Topics included in the survey
- Results of the survey
 - / Knowledge/awareness of Article 153
 - / Attitudes toward violence against women
- Conclusions

Introduction



- Why a national public opinion survey?
 - / Little reliable data on public attitudes toward violence against women, in Kuwait or elsewhere
 - / Data are important not just for academic purposes but also to help policymakers understand important issues
 - / Increasing awareness of the importance of reliable opinion surveys in the Middle East and Gulf region
- How is this survey unique?
 - / First large-scale study in Kuwait and perhaps the GCC
 - / Large (1,050) and nationally-representative sample
 - / Designed to address low knowledge, high sensitivity

Methodology



- Standard approval from Central Statistical Bureau
- Conducted in July 2016 by a well-established and reputable local survey firm
- Administered by telephone using a comprehensive sampling frame
- Final sample of 1,050 respondents
- Kuwaiti nationals aged 21 (voting age) and older
- Representative of Kuwaiti society across important demographic and socioeconomic categories: gender, age, education, economy, geography, etc.

Methodology, continued



- Survey pre-test established very low knowledge (less than 10% were aware of Article 153 by name)
- Key questions embedded in larger batteries of items to reduce sensitivity
- Order of appearance of survey questions randomized to avoid ordering effects

Survey Topics



- Knowledge of Article 153
- General attitudes toward women
- Views about violence of against women in the specific case of adultery
- Support for a law permitting violence against women in the case of adultery
- General interest and involvement in politics, including in National Assembly elections

Results



- Very low knowledge
 - / Low knowledge of Article 153 (less than 10%)
 - / Low knowledge of its general provisions (14%)
- Most Kuwaitis (63%) are not supportive
 - / More extreme opponents than extreme supporters
- Support lower among more educated citizens
- Opponents, not supporters, are more politically active

63%



Two-thirds (63%) of **Kuwaitis do not support** a law such as Article 153. About twice as many people **strongly oppose** it than strongly support it.

13%

More **educated Kuwaitis are less likely to support such a law**: University-educated Kuwaitis are 13% more opposed to such a law than uneducated Kuwaitis.

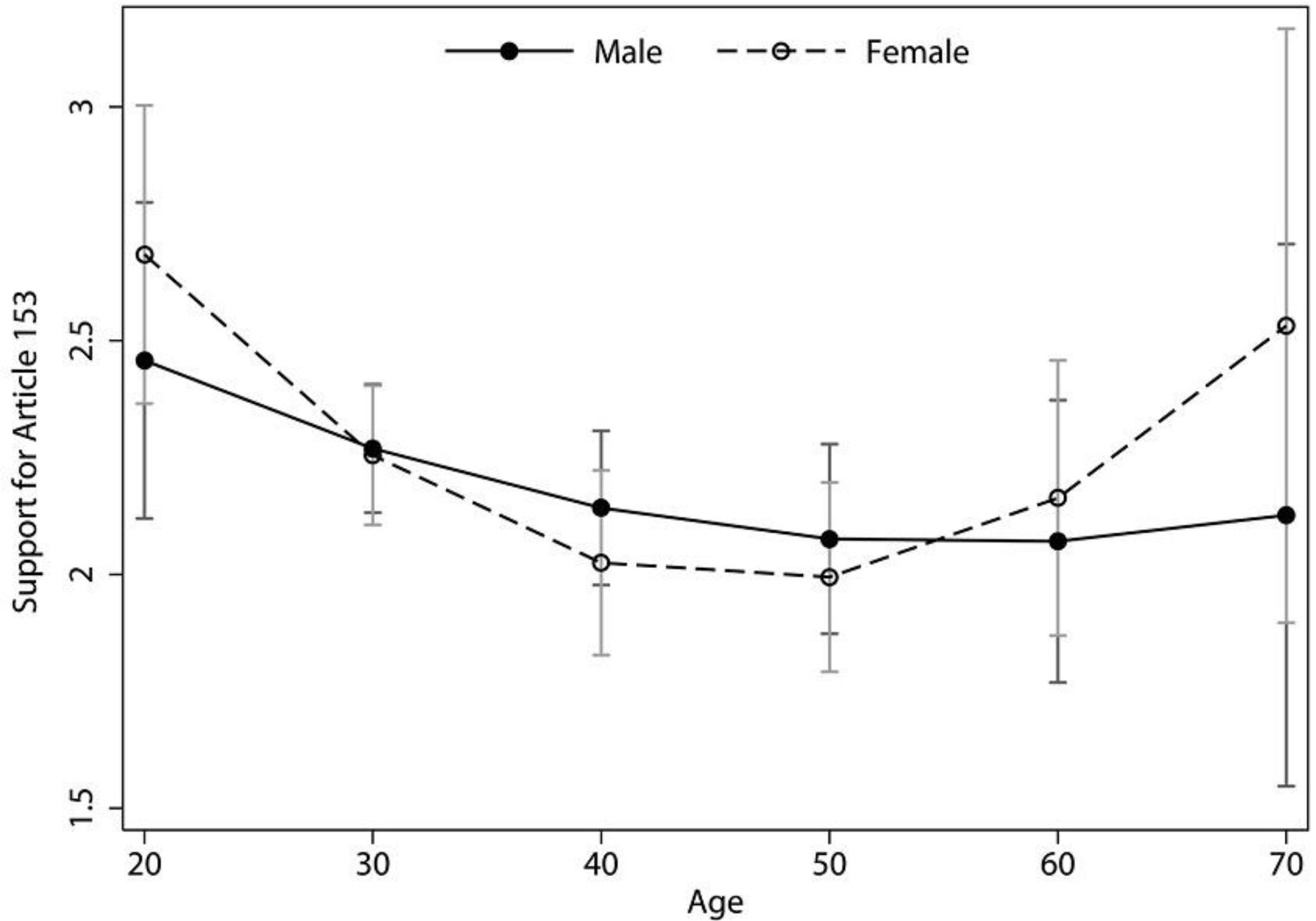
Opponents of the law participate in parliamentary elections more frequently than do supporters.

86%



The vast majority (86%) of **Kuwaitis are not aware that the law exists**--either by name or in terms of its general provisions.

Support for Article 153, by Age and Gender



Conclusions



- Most Kuwaitis do not realize Article 153 exists
- Most Kuwaitis oppose the idea of a law condoning violence against women adulterers
- There is no difference between the knowledge and attitudes of men and women
- Opponents are better educated, but the relationship with age is more nuanced and gender-specific
- Opponents are more politically engaged than supporters