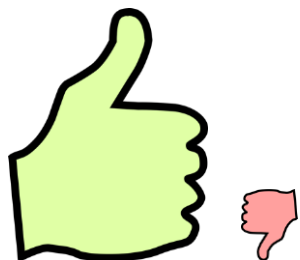


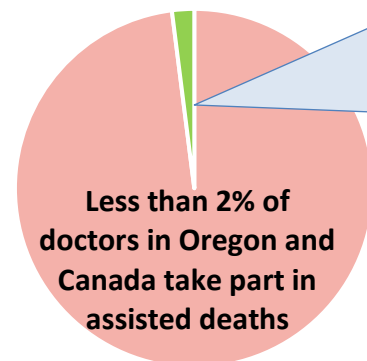
The impact of assisted dying on doctors



In countries where assisted deaths are legal, it might be assumed that most doctors participate



In reality, the proportion of doctors participating in assisted deaths is remarkably small



- In **Oregon** (2020) 142 physicians prescribed lethal drugs for 370 patients¹ → that year there were 6,191 active physicians in Oregon
- In **Canada** (2020) 1,274 doctors participated in 7,595 assisted deaths² → in 2019 there were 91,375 active physicians in Canada

- Participating in assisted deaths has a psychological impact on up to half of doctors, and that can persist long-term in up to a fifth.³
- Factors contributing to the emotional burden of participating in an assisted death include discomfort with being involved in the process, assessing a patient's capacity to decide, and having to judge if the patient fits the criteria for an assisted death.³
- In a recent poll of practicing UK doctors, the majority (58%) of those who expressed an opinion were unwilling to prescribe lethal drugs.⁴
- Canadian physicians' refusal to participate in assisted deaths was not based on religious or moral grounds, but because of the emotional burden and fear of psychological repercussions.⁵
- In Belgium, where assisted deaths have been legal for nearly 20 years:
 - only 13% of Belgian psychiatrists were prepared to participate in an assisted death.⁶
 - of 52 GPs interviewed only 9 (17%) had performed an assisted death.⁷

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