

Does legalising assisted deaths impact on vulnerable individuals?



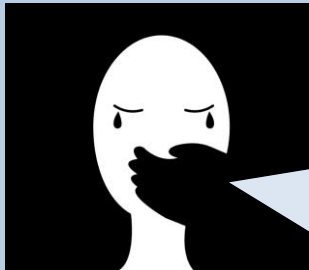
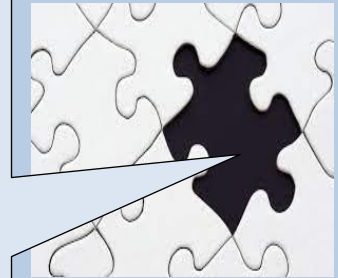
Q. Is there any evidence of risk to vulnerable individuals?



Official reports provide scant information

Missing information:

- Adherence to the eligibility criteria or safeguards ^{1, 2, 5-7}
- Showing assisted death as the cause on death certificates ^{3, 4}
- Process of decision making ^{1, 5-7}
- Capacity assessments ⁵⁻⁷
- Reasons for refusing or not using lethal medication ⁵⁻⁷



1 in 6 older people suffer abuse, including psychological and financial manipulation.⁸

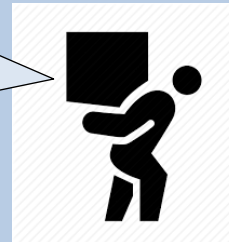


In 2020, 232 Canadian patients changed their minds about an assisted death, 22% immediately before receiving the drug ⁶



Some disabled Canadian patients have been offered an assisted death rather than treatment ⁹

In 2021 in Oregon, 54% felt a burden and 8.4% had financial concerns⁷



The proportion of Belgian psychiatric patients receiving an assisted death rose 6-fold over a 10-year period ¹⁰

Of Dutch psychiatric assisted deaths, 55% were depressed, 11% had no independent psychiatric input, and 20% never had a psychiatric inpatient stay ^{11, 12} Similar patients requesting an assisted death were more likely to be single, female, with a lower educational background, a history of sexual abuse and with the commonest diagnosis being a depressive mood disorder ¹³

Learning disability and autism have become eligible criteria ¹⁴

References

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