Assisted deaths - does legislation expand over time?



Q. Does assisted dying legislation change after becoming law?



A. Given time, <u>all</u> legislations gradually loosen their criteria

Canada

- No longer requires a patient to be terminally ill (5 years after legislation) ⁵
- Currently planning to allow those with mental illness, learning disability and autism to be included⁶

Netherlands and Belgium

- Children and those with psychiatric illness now eligible for an assisted death ^{7,8}
- New-borns less than a month old are euthanised ⁹

US (Oregon and California)

- Cooling-off period removed for 25% patients (Oregon) or reduced from 15 days to 48hrs (California) ^{10, 11}
- Non-terminal illness becomes eligible. In 2021 includes arthritis and anorexia.

Numbers

All legislations have seen rising numbers:

- x 10 in Canada in 6 years ¹
- x 5 in Switzerland in 10 years ²
- x 4.5 in Oregon in 12 years ³
- x 4 in Netherlands in 20 years ⁴



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