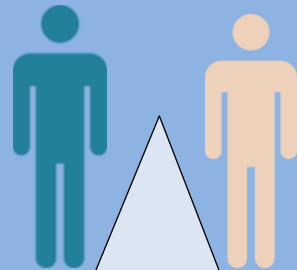


The impact of assisted dying on palliative care



It is often claimed that palliative care can live comfortably with assisted dying



The reality is very different



Hospice closures

In Canada, hospices refusing to offer assisted deaths have had their funding stopped <sup>1</sup>  
 Assisted deaths are much cheaper than hospice care  
 (1 Canadian AD = 1 week UK hospice care)



Hospice uses slows

In Oregon, growth in hospice use was slower than elsewhere in the US <sup>2</sup>



Funding remains poor

In Canada, less than half those who died received palliative care, <sup>6</sup> and less than half of assisted deaths have seen a specialist PC team. <sup>9</sup>  
 In the UK, many services are funded by charity.

Hospices say no

- Oregon (in 2012): 66% of hospices did not allow staff to take part in assisted deaths. <sup>3</sup>
- New Zealand: nearly all hospices have refused to participate
- Jersey: hospice will not participate. <sup>4</sup>

Palliative care services stall

- In Belgium and the Netherlands 2012-19 growth stalled in home care, hospital and inpatient palliative care services <sup>5</sup>
- Growth in European non-AD countries increased faster than AD countries <sup>5</sup>
- Swiss services are half what is needed and not growing <sup>10</sup>

Changed doctor-patient relationships

In Canada some doctors found the relationship with patients was more difficult after legalisation <sup>7</sup>

In Australia doctors are unable to fulfil their legal requirements <sup>8</sup>

References

1. Harding L. [Western Standard](#), 18 July 2021:
2. Ballentine J, et al. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 2016; 19(5): Letters.
3. Campbell CS, Cox JC.. *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*, 2012; 29(3): 227-35
4. Jersey Hospice website
5. Arias-Casais N et al, *Palliative Medicine*, 2020; 34(8): 1044-56.
6. [Access to Palliative Care in Canada, 2023.](#)
7. Mathews JJ, et al. *Palliative Medicine* 2021; 35(2): 447-54
8. Rutherford J et al. *Omega- Journal of Death and Dying*, 2021; July 20.
9. Munro C, et al. *Canadian Family Physician*, 2020; 66: 833-42.
10. Leutenegger M. SWO [Swissinfo](#).