

The reality of medically assisted dying in Canada



Assisted suicide and euthanasia (MAiD) have been legal since 2016. All legislations see numbers increase.



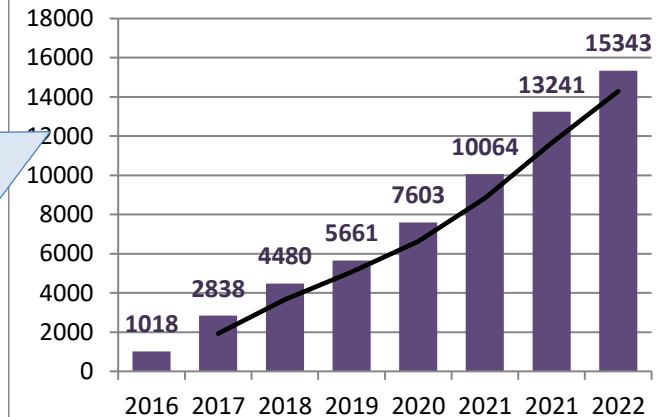
Canada has seen the fastest growth in assisted dying of any legislature

Assisted deaths have risen 15-fold in 7 years¹

Nearly trebled in first year¹

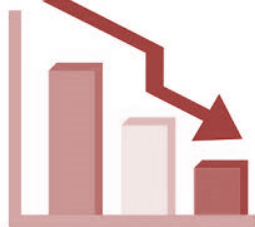
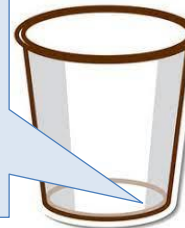
Account for 4.7% of all deaths¹

Canada: number of AD deaths

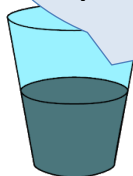


Canada is 22nd in end-of-life care rankings (down 11 places since 2015)^{2, 3}

85% of Canadians do not have access to publicly funded palliative care and many areas have none.^{5, 6}
41% of AD patients have no access to any form of palliative care⁷



Less than half of assisted deaths have seen a specialist palliative care team⁴



Canada no longer requires a patient to be terminally ill⁸

Currently debating to allow those with mental illness, learning disability and autism to be included⁹



Official data is sketchy with no information on adherence to eligibility or safeguards¹⁰

References

1. MAiD 5th Annual Report 2023.
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3. The 2015 Quality of Death Index: ranking palliative care across the world. London: Economist Intelligence Unit, 2015.
4. Munro C, et al. Involvement of palliative care in patients requesting medical assistance in dying. *Canadian Family Physician*, 2020; 66: 833-42.
5. Access to Palliative Care in Canada. Ottawa: Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2018, p6.
6. *Carter v Canada (Attorney General)* 2012 BCSC 886. Note 3, paragraph 708.
7. Access to Palliative Care in Canada, 2023.
8. Medical Assistance in Dying: changes to the Criminal Code. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/medical-assistance-dying.html>
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