

Statistical Data Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS) and Euthanasia

Source - New England Journal of Medicine March 17, 2015 - Belgian Update

- **4.6% of all deaths** in Belgium are euthanasia
- **1.7% if those deaths** – no explicit consent given – 1000 deaths yearly

Source - Stats Canada – 242,074 deaths in Canada in 2014

Applying the Belgium Stats to us here in Canada

- Assuming **4.6%** of deaths are euthanasia = **11,184 deaths / 30+ per day**
That number would tie euthanasia with the 4th leading cause of death here in Canada – lung Cancer
Only cancer, heart disease, and stroke are greater numbers
- Assuming **1.7%** of euthanasia deaths no explicit consent – **4,115 / 11+ per day**
Between 8th and 9th leading cause of death

Source - Canadian Medical Association Journal study published in June of 2010

- In Belgium, where PAS and Euthanasia are legal with supposed strict safeguards, **32%** of those who died by PAS **had not made an explicit request for assisted death** and many would not have been competent to make such a request.
- and -
- They tended to be those with non-cancer diagnosis, such as **dementia, older, and less mentally competent**
- **9%** of the time, the physician said the reason consent was not sought was that, **“It would be too stressful for the patient”**

There is also a story related of a Dutch physician who did not know how to treat a malignant bowel obstruction who said
“I usually deal with those types of cases with euthanasia.”

Source - Acta Paediatrica study published in 2007 reported that in deaths of all children under one year of age

- “Drugs were administered with the explicit intention of hastening death in **9%** of cases in Belgium and **7%** of cases in the Netherlands.”
- In Belgium, only **81%** of physicians discussed **ANY ASPECT** of End of Life Decision (ELD) making with the parents.
- In the Netherlands it was **96%**.

This means that in Belgium...

- **19%** of the time, the parents **were never consulted** much less asked for their consent, about any aspect of ELD.
- The physicians made the determinations with **no input from the families**.
- That's **1 in 5** of these children were killed **without the parents ever being asked** if they wanted to take their baby home and love him or her.

Let's get closer to home...Oregon.

- In 2014 – **105 people** died by Assisted Suicide.
- **Only 3** of them had a psychological assessment.

In the last 5 years Oregon's statistics show that only **2% of patients** are being referred for psychological evaluations. Note: It is a medical fact that depression is a curable illness.

