

Canada's 2020 Euthanasia Report and "Assisted Suicide": Almost 8000 People Died by Lethal Injection, 1412 People Died Because of Loneliness and 4% of Deaths in BC Were Euthanasia

By [Alex Schadenberg](#)

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On June 30, Health Canada released the [second annual report on \(MAiD\)](#) euthanasia and assisted suicide. The data was gathered from the reports submitted by the medical or nurse practitioners who caused the death. There is no requirement that a third party or neutral person submit the euthanasia reports to ensure their accuracy.

The report does not even attempt to uncover potential abuse of the law. The [data in Québec's report indicated that at least 13 assisted deaths did not comply with the law](#).

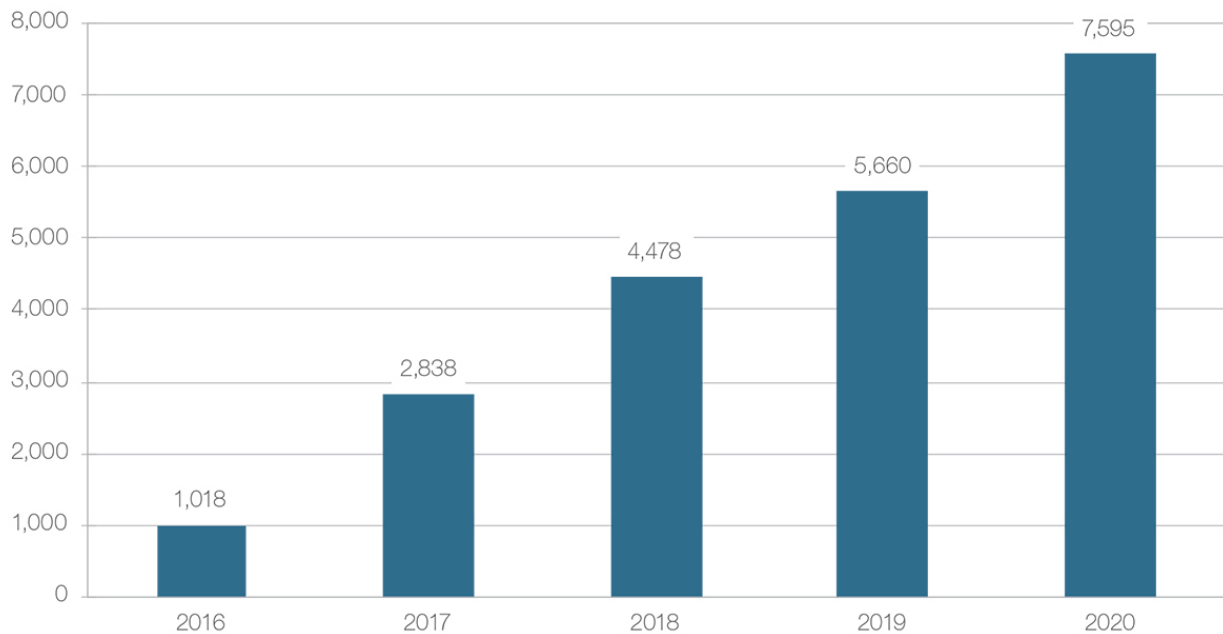
- British Columbia [cancer patient was pushed toward euthanasia \(Link\)](#).

The 2020 Canadian MAiD report indicates that the number of assisted deaths increased more than 34% in 2020:

In 2020, there were 7595 reported assisted deaths up from 5,660 in 2019 and up from 4,478 in 2018.

(MAiD) euthanasia deaths represented 2.5% of all deaths in 2020.

Chart 3.1: Total Reported MAID Deaths in Canada, 2016 to 2020



EXPLANATORY NOTES:

1. MAID cases are counted in the calendar year in which the death occurred (i.e., January 1 to December 31), and are not related to the date of receipt of the written request.
2. For 2016 - Québec data begins December 10, 2015 when its provincial Act respecting end-of-life care came into force. Data for the rest of Canada begins June 17, 2016.
3. Previous years' reporting has been revised to include corrections and additional reports.
4. This chart represents MAID deaths where a report was received by Health Canada by January 31, 2021 (7,384 deaths) as well as additional MAID deaths reported by the jurisdictions (211 deaths) where the report was not yet received by Health Canada, for a total of 7,595 MAID deaths in 2020.
5. Cases of self-administered MAID are included in this chart. They are not identified by year or jurisdiction in order to protect confidentiality.

The number of MAID deaths in 2020 increased by more than 34% from 2019. The increase in 2019 from 2018 was more than 26% with every province experiencing an increase in the number of MAID deaths.

When all data sources are considered, the total of number of (MAiD) deaths reported in Canada from legalization until December 31, 2020 is 21,589.

Based on the fact that the Ontario data, which is published monthly, [indicates increases in assisted deaths in 2021](#), I estimated that at least 4000 assisted deaths occurred in the first 6 months of 2021, meaning **more than 25,000 MAiD deaths have happened in Canada since legalization.**

British Columbia has the highest percentage with 4% of all deaths by (MAiD).

Table 3.1: Total Reported MAID Deaths in Canada by Jurisdiction, 2016 to 2020

MAID	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU	Canada
2016	–	–	24	9	494	191	24	11	63	194	–	–	–	1,018
2017	–	–	62	49	853	839	63	57	205	677	–	–	–	2,838
2018	23	8	126	92	1,236	1,500	138	85	307	951	10	–	–	4,478
2019	17	20	147	141	1,602	1,788	177	97	377	1,280	13	–	–	5,660
2020	49	36	188	160	2,268	2,378	214	157	555	1,572	13	–	–	7,595
TOTAL 2016–2020	109	70	547	451	6,453	6,696	616	407	1,507	4,674	50	–	–	21,589

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6. Due to small numbers, some data have been suppressed to protect confidentiality (represented by dashes).

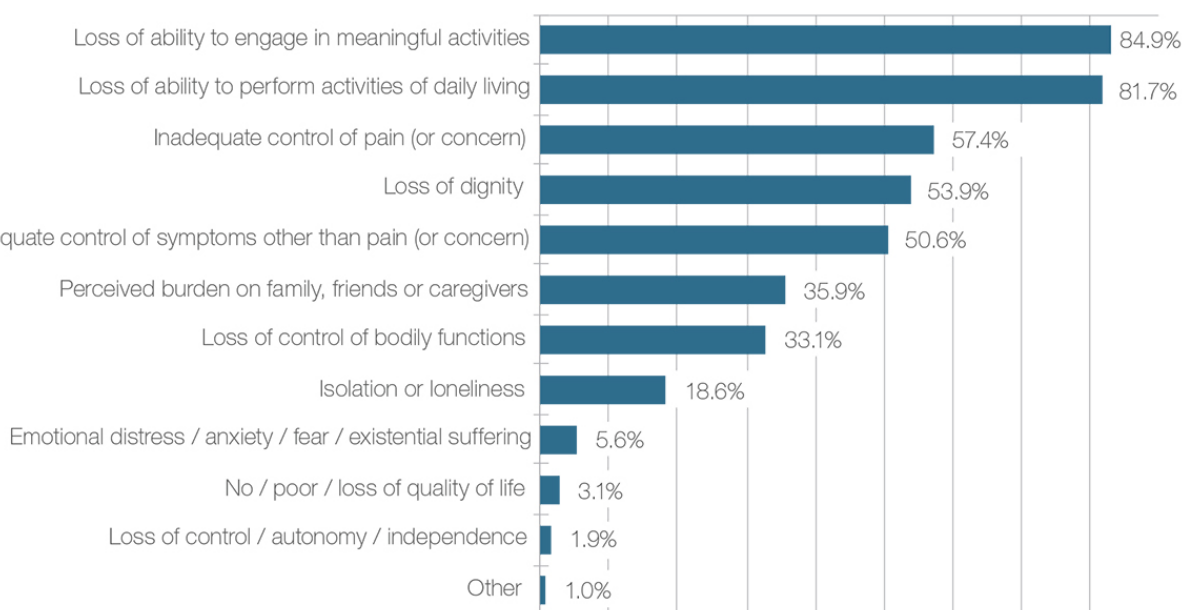
There is significant difference with the number of euthanasia (MAiD) deaths in each province. The data indicates that British Columbia has the highest percentage of (MAiD) deaths (4% of all deaths) and Quebec has the second highest percentage (3.1% of all deaths), while Newfoundland has the lowest percentage of deaths by euthanasia (0.9%).

British Columbia has been the most aggressive province to promote euthanasia and is forcing healthcare institutions to facilitate killing their patients. For instance:

- A recent story from BC concerned a cancer patient who was being pushed to euthanasia ([Link](#)).
- In February, the Delta Hospice Society was defunded by the BC Ministry of Health because they refused to be complicit with euthanasia ([Link](#)).
- In 2019, Alan Nichols died by euthanasia in Chilliwack BC, even though he was not dying but deeply depressed. His family begged the doctors to re-assess Alan based on the fact that Alan had lived his life with chronic depression, but they refused ([Link](#)).

Nature of suffering among MAiD recipients

Chart 4.3: Nature of Suffering of Those Who Received MAiD, 2020



EXPLANATORY NOTES:

1. This chart represents MAiD data where the report was received by Health Canada by January 31, 2021. For 2020, this represents 7,384 MAiD deaths.
2. Providers were able to select more than one reason when reporting; therefore, the total exceeds 100%.

Practitioners reported that suffering among MAiD recipients was closely tied to a loss of autonomy.

The most frequently reported reason for the patient asking to be killed was loss of ability to engage in meaningful life activities (84.9%) followed closely by loss of ability to perform activities of daily living (81.7%). Inadequate control of pain, or concern about it (57.4%), loss of dignity (53.9%) and inadequate control of symptoms, other than pain, or concern about it (50.6%).

I am particularly concerned that 18.6% or more than 1412 people listed loneliness and isolation as a reason to die by MAiD.

If Canadians had access to excellent end-of-life care then 57% would not state that inadequate control of pain or concern about it and 50% would not state that inadequate control of symptoms, other than pain, or concern about it are reasons to be killed.

On March 17, 2021 the Federal Government passed Bill C-7. The government has predicted that Bill C-7 will lead to a 20% increase in the number of MAiD deaths in Canada. Based on the fact that there were 7595 euthanasia deaths in 2020, it is possible that there will be more than 9100 deaths by lethal injection in 2021. Recent Ontario data suggests that this is exactly what is happening ([Link](#)).

Canada's federal government and the Québec government have both established committee's to discuss the [further expansion of euthanasia in Canada](#).

The current Canadian government is committed to more death by euthanasia.

There is more information in the Second Annual Report on Medical Assistance in Dying that I will cover in future articles.

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