

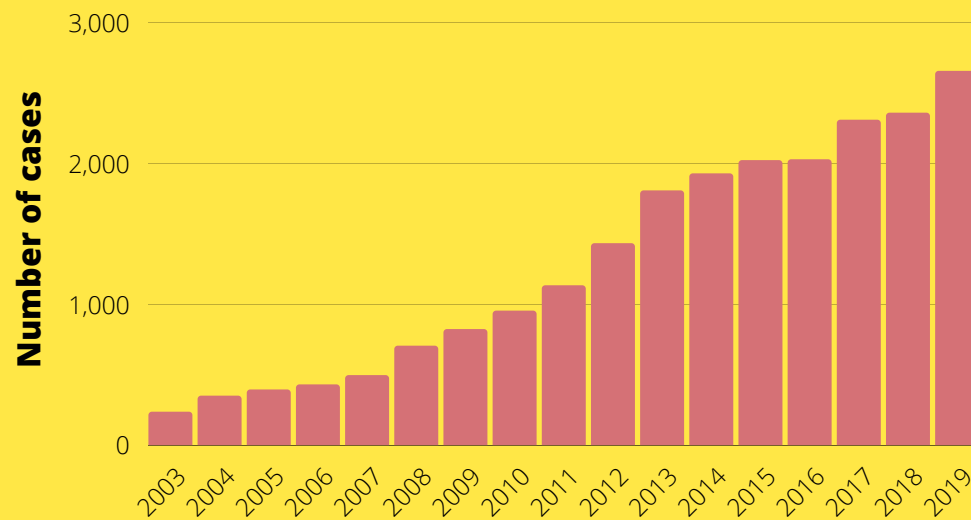
EUTHANASIA SLIPPERY SLOPE

CASE STUDY: BELGIUM

2002: Euthanasia became legal in Belgium for adults and emancipated minors whom are conscious (unconscious patients can be euthanasiated too under certain circumstances) .(1) The 2002 legislation allows for euthanasia in regards to "mental suffering" (eg. depression) also. (3)

2014: Belgium legalised Euthanasia for terminal children with parental permission. There is no age limit. (2) (4)

BELGIUM EUTHANASIA FACTS:

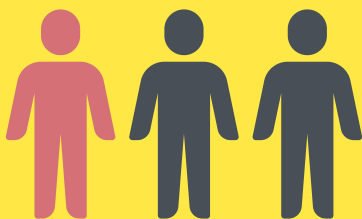


Since legalization, the cases of Euthanasia have **increased every single year.** (8) (9)

- A 2015 study in the Journal of Medical Ethics found that around **1 in 60 euthanasia cases is happening without the patient asking for it.** The majority of non-consensual deaths involving patients over 80 years old. (6). "Thousands of elderly people have been killed by their own GPs without ever asking to die under Belgium's euthanasia laws." (7)

"The decision as to which life is no longer 'worth living' is not in the hands of the patient but in the hands of the doctor." (6)
- Professor Raphael Cohen-Almagor

- A 2010 published questionnaire of physicians, found that of a sample size of 208 recorded physician assisted suicides, 66 cases were undertaken without an explicit request from the patient. (5)



Almost 1 in 3 of the assisted deaths were done without the patient ever explicitly requesting it.

- In the cases where there was no explicit request, physicians did not mention the decision to end life with the patient in almost 80% of cases. Reasons ranging from, the patient being in a coma, the patient having dementia or, as was recorded by 17% of doctors, **"because the decision was in the patient's best interest"** (5)

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