



Care and Choice at the End of Life

End Of Life Option Act and the Access Campaign

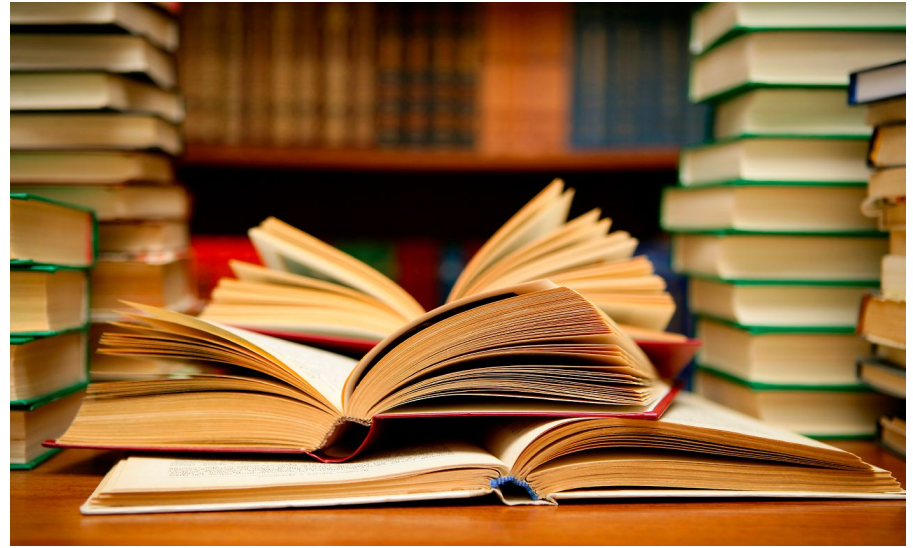
Ensuring people have access to medical aid-in-dying.

About Compassion & Choices

Compassion & Choices is the nation's oldest, largest and most active nonprofit working to improve care and expand options for the end of life.

“Life is meaningful
because
it is a story...

...and in stories,
endings matter.”



-Dr. Atul Gawande, *Being Mortal*

By show of hands...



How people want their lives to end

Journal of the American Society on Aging, June 2015

- At home with loved ones
- With their pain and discomfort managed
- With their spiritual needs and values respected
- Without being a devastating burden for loved ones



Compassion & Choices Resources

TRUTH inTM
treatment



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT TRUTH IN TREATMENT AT:

TruthInTreatment.org

End-of-Life Options:

- All medical treatment interventions
- Hospice care
- Palliative care and palliative sedation
- Discontinuing or refusing medical treatment
- Voluntary Stopping of Eating and Drinking (VSED)
- Medical Aid-in-Dying: DC Death with Dignity Law

What is Medical Aid-in-Dying?

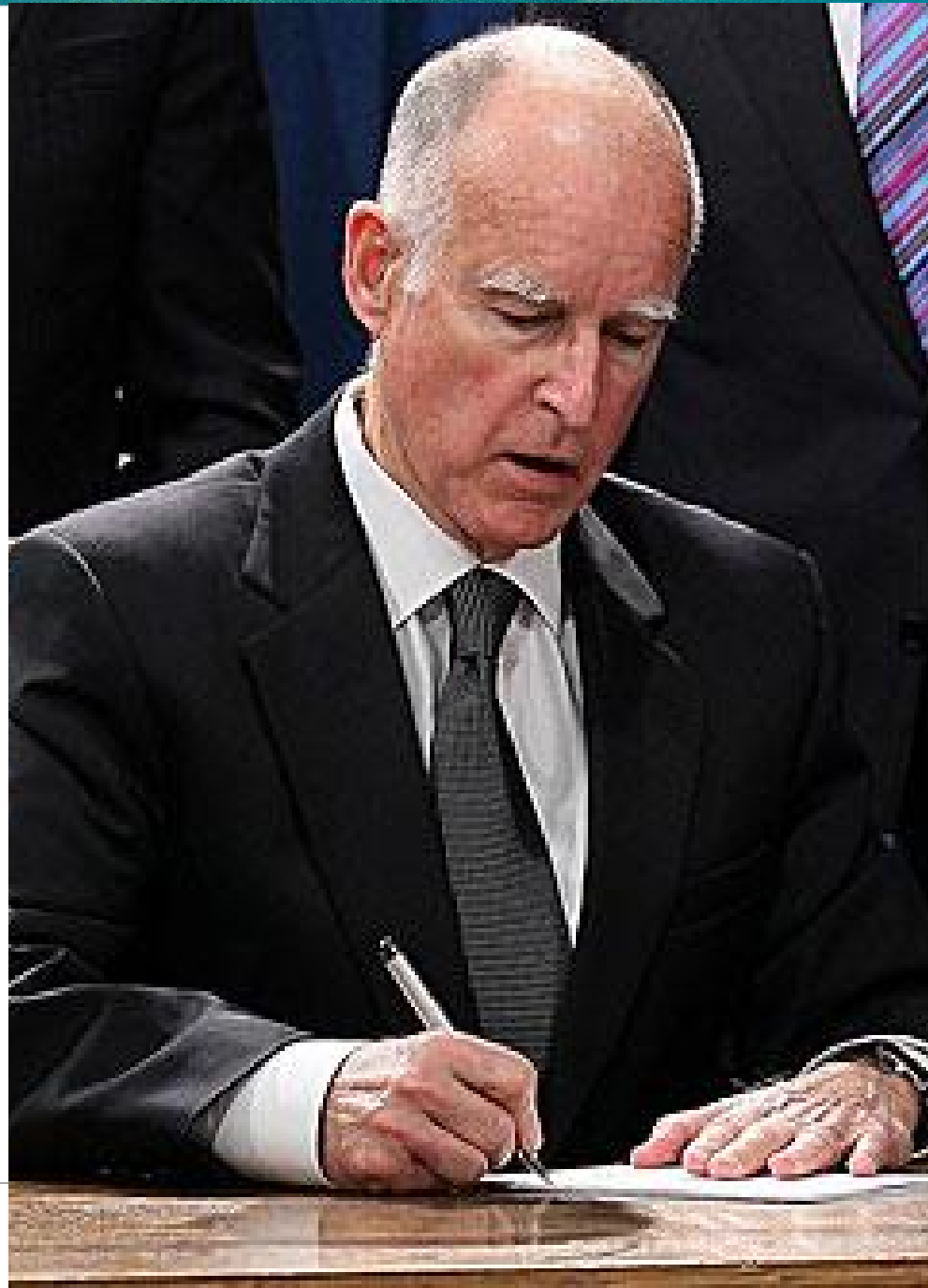
Medical aid-in-dying is a safe and trusted practice in which a terminally ill, mentally capable adult with a prognosis of six months or less to live has the option to request from their doctor a prescription for medication which they can choose to self-administer to end unbearable suffering and die peacefully.

“

I do not know what I would do if I were dying in prolonged and excruciating pain. I am certain, however, that it would be a comfort to be able to consider the options afforded by this bill. And I wouldn't deny that right to others.

– Governor Jerry Brown

”



4 Eligibility Requirements

- Adult (18 years or older)
- Terminally ill
- 6 months or less to live
- Capable of making medical decisions



Other requirements include:

- Physician must inform person about all end-of-life care options
- Two verbal requests and one written request
- Two physicians must confirm eligibility
- Two witnesses must attest to the voluntary nature of the individual's request
- Person must be able to take and ingest the medication themselves

Provisions of the law:

- Wills, contracts, insurance and annuity policies are not affected
- Medical aid-in-dying is not considered suicide or assisted suicide



Statistics from Oregon

- 1,749 prescriptions written, 64% took medication
- Most were over age 65 and had a diagnosis of cancer
- 89% were enrolled in hospice
- Primary reason for choosing aid-in-dying was loss of ability to engage in activities that make life enjoyable
- Not one instance of abuse in 19 years

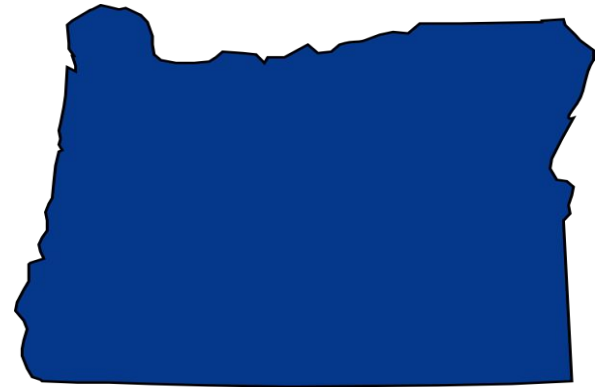
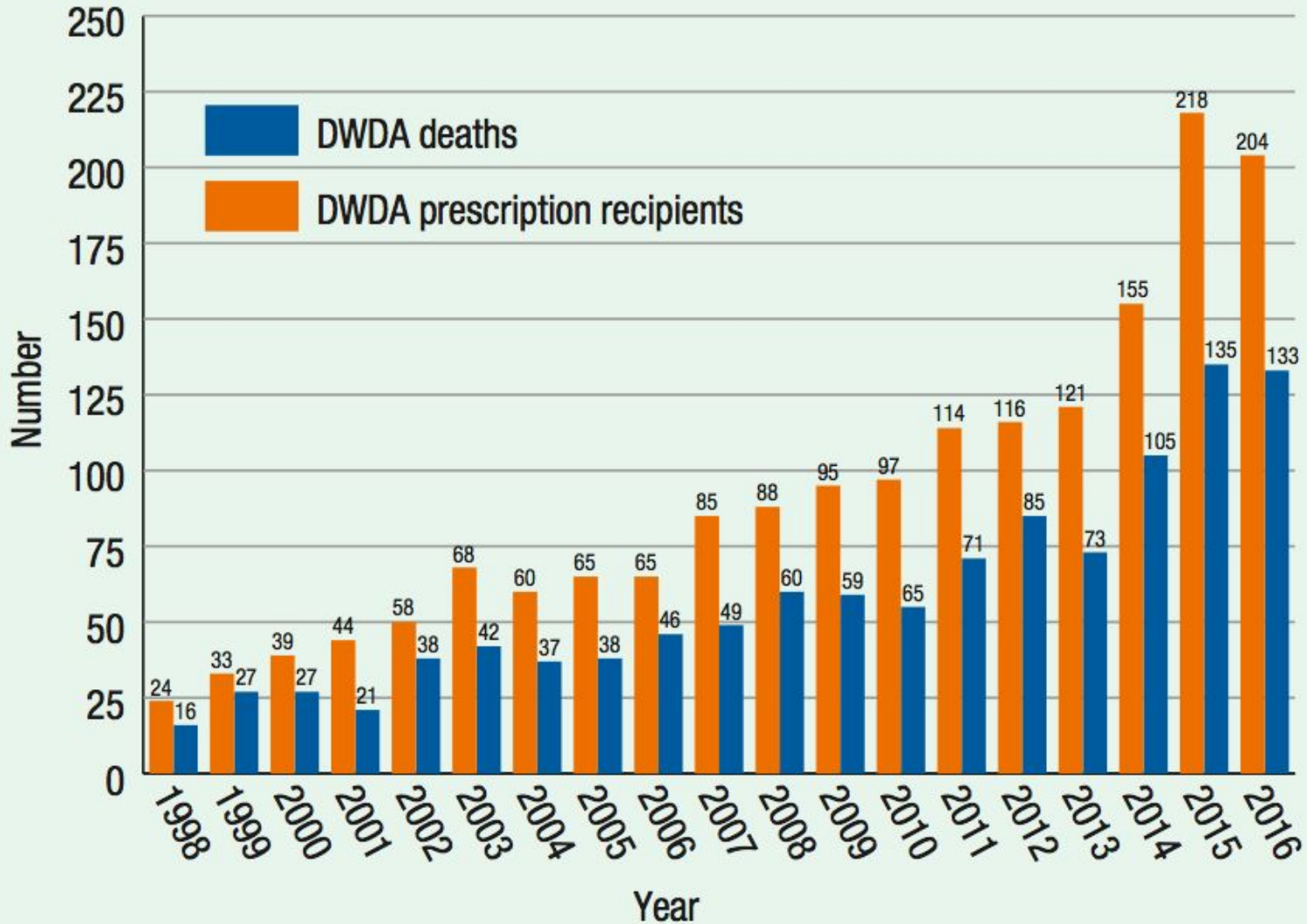


Figure 1: DWDA prescription recipients and deaths*, by year, Oregon, 1998–2016



*As of January 23, 2017

The Access Campaign

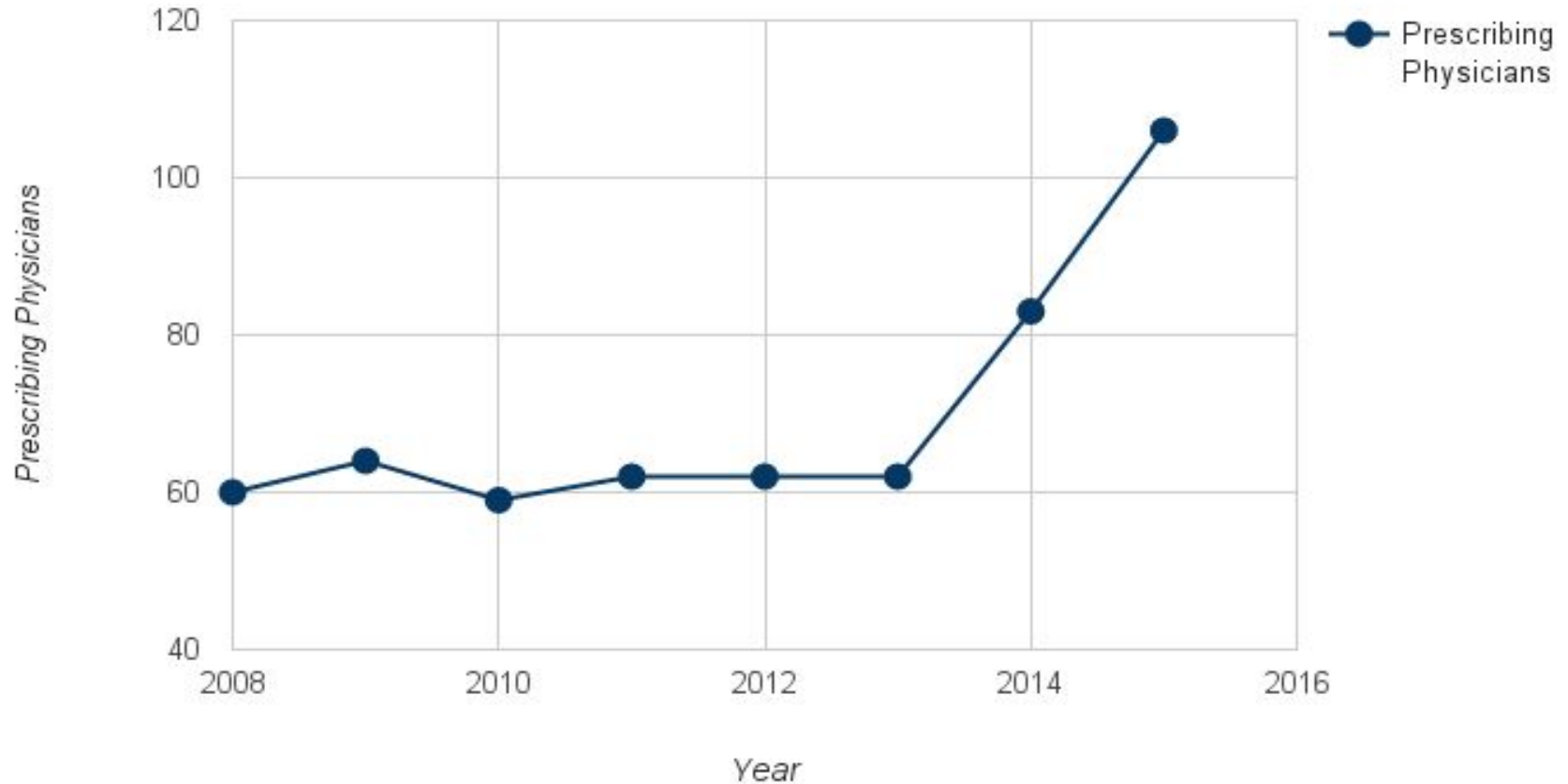
The Access Campaign:

- educates the public
- empowers individuals
- educates healthcare systems
- provides assistance for supportive policy development



The real impact the Access Campaign can make

Prescribing physicians per year



Conducting Public Outreach

- Retirement communities and senior centers
- Assisted living facilities
- Service clubs
- Health and wellness fairs
- Libraries
- Newspapers, newsletters, other media
- Farmers' Markets



Medical Outreach

- Medical conferences
- Professional training workshops at hospitals and hospices
- Presentations to professional associations



"You can't list your iPhone as your primary-care physician."

Compassion & Choices Resources



- ✓ DC Government:
<https://doh.dc.gov/page/death-dignity-act-2016>
- ✓ Compassion & Choices Resources:
<https://www.compassionandchoices.org/district-of-columbia/>
- ✓ Doc2Doc consultation service for physicians:
[800-893-4548](tel:800-893-4548)

Compassion & Choices Resources

- ✓ Coming soon to DC - Find Care Tool:
www.compassionandchoices.org/find-care/

Cedar Sinai Medical Center

8700 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles , CA
90048-1865
Phone: (310)423-5000

Allows doctors and other health care providers to talk with patients about medical aid in dying: Yes

Ensures that patients who request assistance with medical aid in dying are referred to a supportive organization or provider: Yes

Allows doctors to participate in medical aid in dying in its hospital: Yes

Allows doctors to participate in medical aid in dying in clinics and other facilities it owns or operates: Yes

How can you help?

- Volunteer with Compassion & Choices!
- Connect us with groups or organizations to give a presentation.
- Connect us with medical professionals
- If you are a medical professional, become a champion for medical aid-in-dying





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Questions?