A Biblical Perspective on Physician-Assisted Suicide

Psalm 139:13-16, et al.

Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS)

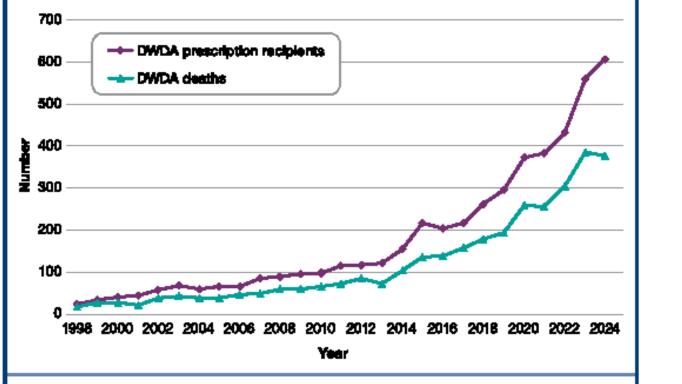
Medical Aid in Dying (MAID)

Assisted Dying (AD)

Physician-Assisted Death (PAD)

Death with Dignity

Figure 1: DWDA prescription recipients and deaths, Oregon, 1998–2024



As of January 25, 2025. See <u>Table 2</u> for detailed information. Since 2023, non-residents can also receive prescriptions.

God, you formed me in my mother's womb according to your perfect design—my bones, my organs—you wove them all together into something unique and miraculous. I know beyond the shadow of a doubt that you created me, and I praise you for it. When no one else could see me (even before my mother knew she was pregnant), you saw me. You knew me from the start. You ordained and numbered the days of my life even before I was born.

Psalm 36:9

"For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light."

Genesis 1:21

"And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, ... and God saw that it was good."

1 Timothy 6:13

"I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, ..."

Genesis 2:7

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Genesis 1:27

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Deuteronomy 32:39

"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand."

Job 14:5

"Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass."

Ecclesiastes 8:8

"There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: ..."

Ecclesiastes 7:14

"In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him."

"Nor shall any man's entreaty prevail upon me to administer poison to anyone. Neither will I counsel any man to do so. Moreover, I will give no sort of medicine to any pregnant woman with a view to destroy the child."

~ from the ancient Hippocratic Oath

Galatians 6:2

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

1 Corinthians 15:26
"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."

Philippians 1:23-24

"For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you."



- 1. Life is a gift from God.
- 2. Human life has intrinsic and inherent value because we are created in the image of God.
- 3. We are stewards, not owners of the life God has given us.

- 4. God alone has the authority to determine the timing and manner of a person's death.
- 5. God commands us not to take innocent life.
- 6. Our all-wise God has a purpose for everything, even suffering.

- 7. Jesus is the paradigm for physicians. Like Jesus, physicians *heal*; they don't *harm*.
- 8. True Christian compassion is about walking with a person as they suffer, not ending their life.

- 9. God didn't intend death to be a way of escaping life. Death is an enemy, not a partner.
- 10. There's a difference between hastening death and discontinuing steps to prolong life.