

THE OREGON EXPERIENCE

In sixteen years, only 752 dying people self-administered medication of written prescriptions to hasten their imminent death. Similarly, since enactment in neighboring Washington state, only 353 dying people self-administered medication of written prescriptions in four years.

The Oregon law is also credited with increasing referrals to hospice care, improving the quality of pain management services, and encouraging physicians and families to have early and honest discussions about honoring the wishes of dying patients.

THE NUMBERS BEHIND THE OREGON EXPERIENCE

- 64% Oregon patients that self-administered medication
- 81% Patients had cancer
- 90% Were patients enrolled in hospice
- 98% Had medical insurance
- 95% Died at home
- 71 yr./old Median age, with range of 25-96

(source: State Mandated Fourteenth Annual Report on Oregon Death With Dignity, 2012)

END OF LIFE CONCERNS BEHIND THE OREGON EXPERIENCE

- 91% Losing Autonomy
- 88% Less Able to Engage
- 54% Losing Control of Body
- 36% Burden on Friends/Family
- 23% Pain or Concerns About Pain
- 3% Financial Implications

(source: Oregon Department of Human Services, March 2012)

NO CASES OF ELDER ABUSE IN THE OREGON EXPERIENCE

"We have no 'documented' cases of elder abuse among Death With Dignity Act participants."

(Tamara Burkovskaia, executive assistant at the Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology, Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority 12/20/2012)