

Communities of Color Reject Assisted Suicide

Who asks for assisted suicide?

It is generally White, wealthy individuals who insist on access to lethal drugs, imposing the cheaper assisted suicide “option” on people who already must fight to overcome healthcare inequalities.

Oregon (2019)

Requests for assisted suicide from non-Hispanic Whites:

96.3%

Non-Hispanic White population of Oregon:

73.5%

Washington (2018)

Requests for assisted suicide from non-Hispanic Whites:

96%

Non-Hispanic White population of Washington:

65.1%

Colorado (2019)

Requests for assisted suicide from non-Hispanic Whites:

95.7%

Non-Hispanic White population of Colorado:

66.5%

California (2019)

Requests for assisted suicide from non-Hispanic Whites:

87.2%

Non-Hispanic White population of California:

34.7%

Note: Statistics from state public health statistics and U.S. Census Bureau.

Do communities of color support assisted suicide?

Pew Research poll on support for assisted suicide for terminally ill patients:

Black:

65% opposed

29% support

Hispanic:

65% opposed

32% support

Source: [pewresearch.org/religion/2013/11/21/views-on-end-of-life-medical-treatments](https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2013/11/21/views-on-end-of-life-medical-treatments)

Communities of color face healthcare discrimination

A 2023 Kaiser Family Foundation survey on racism, discrimination, and health found that people of color often experience discrimination when seeking medical care. With the cheaper assisted suicide “option” available, those facing existing healthcare disparities may be offered this option rather than more expensive care.

Rising costs and cost-cutting pressure from insurance companies threatens access to quality health care and access to prescription medicine across the board. Inject a cheap, lethal option for those who already have higher costs, and the pressure to choose the more “economic” lethal option quickly threatens any achievement in expanding access to high quality healthcare.

Source: [kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/poll-finding/survey-on-racism-discrimination-and-health](https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/poll-finding/survey-on-racism-discrimination-and-health)

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