

EUTHANASIA – Publication of the 2025 figures for euthanasia in Belgium

Brussels, 20 March 2026 – The Federal Commission for the Control and Evaluation of Euthanasia has today published the figures for reported euthanasia cases in Belgium in 2025.

In 2025, 4,486 euthanasia registration documents were received and reviewed by the Commission, marking a 12.4% increase compared with 2024. Euthanasia accounted for 4% of all deaths recorded in Belgium in 2025, compared to 3.6% in 2024 (source: StatBel, 26.02.2026).

3,379 registration documents were written in Dutch and 1,107 in French. The increase in the number of registration documents written in French (16.6%) is proportionally higher than that of Dutch-language documents (11.1%). Nevertheless, there remains a significant gap between Dutch-language documents (75.3%) and French-language documents (24.7%).

Most patients concerned were over 70 (73.7 %), of which 45 % were over 80. Euthanasia in patients under the age of 40 remained rare (1.4%).

One euthanasia case involving a minor patient was declared in 2025, bringing the total number of cases to seven since the extension of the law to minors in 2014.

As for the locations where euthanasia is performed, most continue to take place at the patient's place of residence (67.1% in total—home, including assisted-living flats, service flats, and nursing homes combined), confirming patients' tendency to wish to remain in a familiar environment. The proportion of euthanasia cases carried out in nursing homes shows a slight increase (18.6%, one point more than in 2024). A slight decrease is observed in euthanasia carried out at home (48.5%, versus 50.4% in 2024). The percentage of euthanasia carried out in hospitals remains stable (30.9%, including 6.4% in palliative care units).

The main pathologies that prompted requests for euthanasia remained as follows:

- Cancers (49.9% of cases), proportionally decreasing (-4.2% compared with 2024).
- Polypathologies (29.6%) – continuing to increase (+2.7% compared with 2024).
- Neurological diseases (8.2%) – stable.
- Respiratory diseases (3.3%) and cardiac diseases (2.4%) – stable.

Euthanasia for psychiatric conditions (1.6%) and cognitive disorders remain rare (1.7%), although there is a slight increase compared with 2024 (1.4%).

In 75.1% of cases, death was expected in the short term. Euthanasia for patients for whom death was not expected in the short term continues to increase (1,117 cases in 2025, compared to 932 in 2024), mainly for patients affected by polypathologies.

Regarding suffering:

- 86% of patients were experiencing both physical and psychological suffering (compared with 82.3% in 2024).
- 12.1% were experiencing physical suffering only. (compared to 15.8% in 2024).
- 1.9% were experiencing psychological suffering only. (same proportion as 2024).

Note: psychological suffering should not be confused with psychiatric conditions. It may also be caused by a somatic disease: for example, in the case of cancer, pain may be adequately relieved by treatment whereas psychological suffering related to loss of autonomy or dignity may persist.

Thiopental (49.9%) and propofol (49.5%) remain the two most used anaesthetic products, although doctors continue to mention logistical difficulties linked to the use of thiopental (it is expensive, non-refundable and packaged in boxes of 10 doses).

General practitioners are the primary representatives of patients who want to request euthanasia and are the main practitioners who carry out the procedure.

The number of euthanasia cases carried out on the basis of an advance declaration of euthanasia continues to decline compared with 2024 (6 cases in 2025 versus 9 in 2024 and 19 in 2023).

Press Release from the Federal Commission for the Control and Evaluation of Euthanasia - FCCEE

The Commission highlighted that the registration documents received met the essential requirements of the law:

- Voluntary, considered and repeated request made without external pressure.
- Serious and incurable medical condition, where the patient is in a medical situation without a medical solution.
- Constant, unrelievable and unbearable suffering caused by this condition.

No cases were forwarded to the Public Prosecutor.

The detailed figures for 2025 are available below and on the Commission's website www.commissioneuthanasie.be, under the Publications section.

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EUTHANASIA - Figures for 2025

Language of registration documents

	TOTAL	4486	%
Dutch		3379	75,3
French		1107	24,7

Patient gender

	TOTAL	4486	%
Female		2343	52,2
Male		2143	47,8

Patient age

	TOTAL	4486	%
Under 18 years		1	0,0
18-29 years		20	0,4
30-39 years		40	0,9
40-49 years		111	2,5
50-59 years		249	5,6
60-69 years		759	16,9
70-79 years		1289	28,7
80-89 years		1328	29,6
90-99 years		662	14,8
100 years and over		27	0,6

Location of the procedure

	TOTAL	4486	%
At home		2176	48,5
Hospital with PCU		1386	30,9
Hospital		1101	24,5
Palliative care unit (PCU)		285	6,4
Rest Homes - Rest and Care Homes		834	18,6
Other		90	2,0

Basis of the written request

	TOTAL	4486	%
Current request		4480	99,9
Advance declaration of euthanasia		6	0,1

Conditions

Breakdown according to the category of conditions, all expected time of death durations included	TOTAL	4486	%
Tumours (cancers)		2237	49,9
Polypathologies (combination of several chronic refractory conditions)		1327	29,6
Diseases of the nervous system		369	8,2
Diseases of the respiratory system		146	3,3
Diseases of the circulatory system		107	2,4
Cognitive disorders (dementia)		77	1,7
Psychiatric conditions		74	1,6
Diseases of the osteoarticular system, muscles and connective tissue		50	1,1
Diseases of the digestive system		24	0,5
Traumatic lesions, poisoning and certain other consequences with external causes		20	0,4
Diseases of the genitourinary system		17	0,4
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings not listed elsewhere		10	0,2
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases		8	0,2
Diseases of the eye and its appendages		6	0,1
Congenital disorders and chromosomal abnormalities		4	0,1
Skin diseases and those of the sub-cutaneous cellular tissue		3	0,1
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain immune system disorders		2	0,0
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process		2	0,0
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period		2	0,0
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases		1	0,0

Expected time of death

	TOTAL	4486	%
Expected in the short term (short)		3369	75,1
Not expected in the short term (not short)		1117	24,9

		Short	Short
Breakdown according to the category of conditions, short term			
	TOTAL	3369	%/3369
Tumours (cancers)		2210	65,6
Polypathologies (combination of several chronic refractory conditions)		687	20,4
Diseases of the nervous system		192	5,7
Diseases of the respiratory system		130	3,9
Diseases of the circulatory system		71	2,1
Diseases of the digestive system		21	0,6
Diseases of the genitourinary system		16	0,5
Diseases of the osteoarticular system, muscles and connective tissue		10	0,3
Traumatic lesions, poisoning and certain other consequences with external causes		8	0,2
Other		24	0,7

		NOT short	NOT short
Breakdown according to the category of conditions, NOT short term			
	TOTAL	1117	%/1117
Polypathologies (combination of several chronic refractory conditions)		640	57,3
Diseases of the nervous system		177	15,8
Cognitive disorders (dementia)		70	6,3
Psychiatric conditions		70	6,3
Diseases of the osteoarticular system, muscles and connective tissue		40	3,6
Diseases of the circulatory system		36	3,2
Tumours (cancers)		27	2,4
Diseases of the respiratory system		16	1,4
Traumatic lesions, poisoning and certain other consequences with external causes		12	1,1
Other		29	2,6

Suffering mentioned

	TOTAL	4486	%
Physical and psychological suffering reported simultaneously		3858	86,0
Physical suffering only		545	12,1
Psychological suffering only (resulting from both psychiatric and physical conditions)		83	1,9

Doctors consulted

Qualification of the reporting doctor

	TOTAL	4486	%
General Practitioner		3267	72,8
Specialist		1213	27,0
Psychiatrist		6	0,1

End-of-life training of the reporting doctor * <i>19,2% of doctors consulted</i>	TOTAL	860	%
EOL-LEIF		356	7,9
Trained in palliative care		235	5,2
EOL-LEIF and trained in palliative care		269	6,0
No additional training		3626	80,8

* data available since March 2025 (document adaptation)

Qualification of doctors compulsorily consulted

Qualification of the first doctor compulsorily consulted			
	TOTAL	4486	%
General Practitioner		2820	62,9
Specialist		1541	34,4
Psychiatrist		125	2,8
End-of-life training <i>63,8 % of doctors consulted</i>			
	TOTAL	4486	%
EOL-LEIF		1966	43,8
Trained in palliative care		389	8,7
EOL-LEIF and trained in palliative care		505	11,3
No additional training		1626	36,2
Qualification of the second doctor compulsorily consulted (death not expected in the short term)			
	TOTAL	1117	%/1117
Psychiatrist		487	43,6
Specialist		361	33,2
General Practitioner		259	23,2
End-of-life training <i>53,27% of doctors consulted</i>			
	TOTAL	1117	%
EOL-LEIF		530	47,4
Trained in palliative care		24	2,1
EOL-LEIF and trained in palliative care		41	3,7
No additional training		522	46,7

Products used

	TOTAL	4486	%
Propofol + neuromuscular paralyzing agent by intravenous administration		2220	49,5
Thiopental + neuromuscular paralyzing agent by intravenous administration		1544	34,4
Thiopental only by intravenous administration		674	15,0
Barbiturates by oral administration		19	0,4
Morphine and/or anxiolytic + neuromuscular paralyzing agent by intravenous administration		19	0,4
Other		10	0,2

Actions of the Commission

	TOTAL	4486	%
Acceptance during the Commission's 1st session <i>No further information was requested</i>		3840	85,6
Acceptance during the Commission's 1st session but further information was requested from the doctor for administrative reasons		273	6,1
<i>Request for missing administrative data (e.g.: place of death, INAMI-RIZIV number, etc.)</i>		197	4,4
<i>Request for missing administrative data and informative comment only (e.g.: method, time taken for the form to be sent, etc.)</i>		10	0,2
<i>Request for missing administrative data and informative comment on how the procedure and/or essential requirements sections were completed (e.g.: brief response but information either in the annexes or elsewhere in the document)</i>		66	1,5
Acceptance during the Commission's 1st session but informative comment sent to the doctor		235	5,2
<i>Form completed properly but informative comment only provided (e.g. method, time taken for the form to be sent)</i>		180	4,0
<i>Informative comment on how the procedure and/or essential requirements sections were completed (e.g.: brief response but information either in the annexes or elsewhere in the form)</i>		55	1,2
Requests for additional information from the doctor for clarification on the procedure carried out or on compliance with the essential requirements *		138	3,1
<i>Request for clarification on the procedure and/or the essential requirements</i>		106	2,4
<i>Request for clarification on the procedure and/or the essential requirements and informative comment only (e.g.: method, time taken for the form to be sent, etc.)</i>		7	0,2
<i>Request for clarification on the procedure and/or the essential requirements and request for missing administrative data</i>		20	0,4
<i>Request for clarification on the procedure and/or the essential requirements, request for missing administrative data and informative comment only (e.g.: method, time taken for the form to be sent, etc.)</i>		5	0,1

* All cases for which further information was requested were approved during the Commission's 2nd or 3rd session following explanations provided by the doctors.

Residence of patients

TOTAL	4486	%
Province of Antwerp	988	22,0
Province of West Flanders	743	16,6
Province of East Flanders	697	15,5
Province of Hainaut	498	11,1
Province of Liège	368	8,2
Province of Luxembourg	316	7,0
Brussels-Capital Region	244	5,4
Province of Namu	211	4,7
Province of Flemish Brabant	141	3,1
Province of Walloon Brabant	103	2,3
Province of Limburg	54	1,2

Patients living in Belgium	4363	97,3
Patients living abroad	123	2,7

Patients living abroad

	TOTAL	123	%
France		110	89,4
Netherlands		7	5,7
Belgians living in the USA		1	0,8
Belgians living in Switzerland		1	0,8
Spain		1	0,8
Italy		1	0,8
Russia		1	0,8
Thailand		1	0,8