

# Nearly 400 people used California assisted death law in 2017

June 22 2018, by Don Thompson

---

California health officials say 374 terminally ill people took drugs to end their lives in 2017, the first full year after a law making the option legal took effect.

The California Department of Public Health said Friday that 577 people received aid-in-dying drugs in 2017, but not everyone used them.

Of the 374 who died, about 90 percent were more than 60 years of age, about 95 percent were insured and about 83 percent were receiving hospice or similar care.

The figures are more than double those from the first six months after the law went into effect in 2016, when 191 people received life-ending drugs, while 111 people took them and died.

A judge briefly halted the law this spring, but an [appeals court](#) has reinstated it.

© 2018 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Nearly 400 people used California assisted death law in 2017 (2018, June 22) retrieved 11 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-06-people-california-death-law.html>

|  |
|--|
| <p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p> |
|--|