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Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA  
Federal Statistical Office FSO

# Assisted suicide in Switzerland (1982 - ) 2006 – 2010

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# Agenda

- Legal framework in Switzerland
- Methods: registration of cases at FSO
- Results
- International comparison
- Conclusion
- Next steps



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# Legal framework

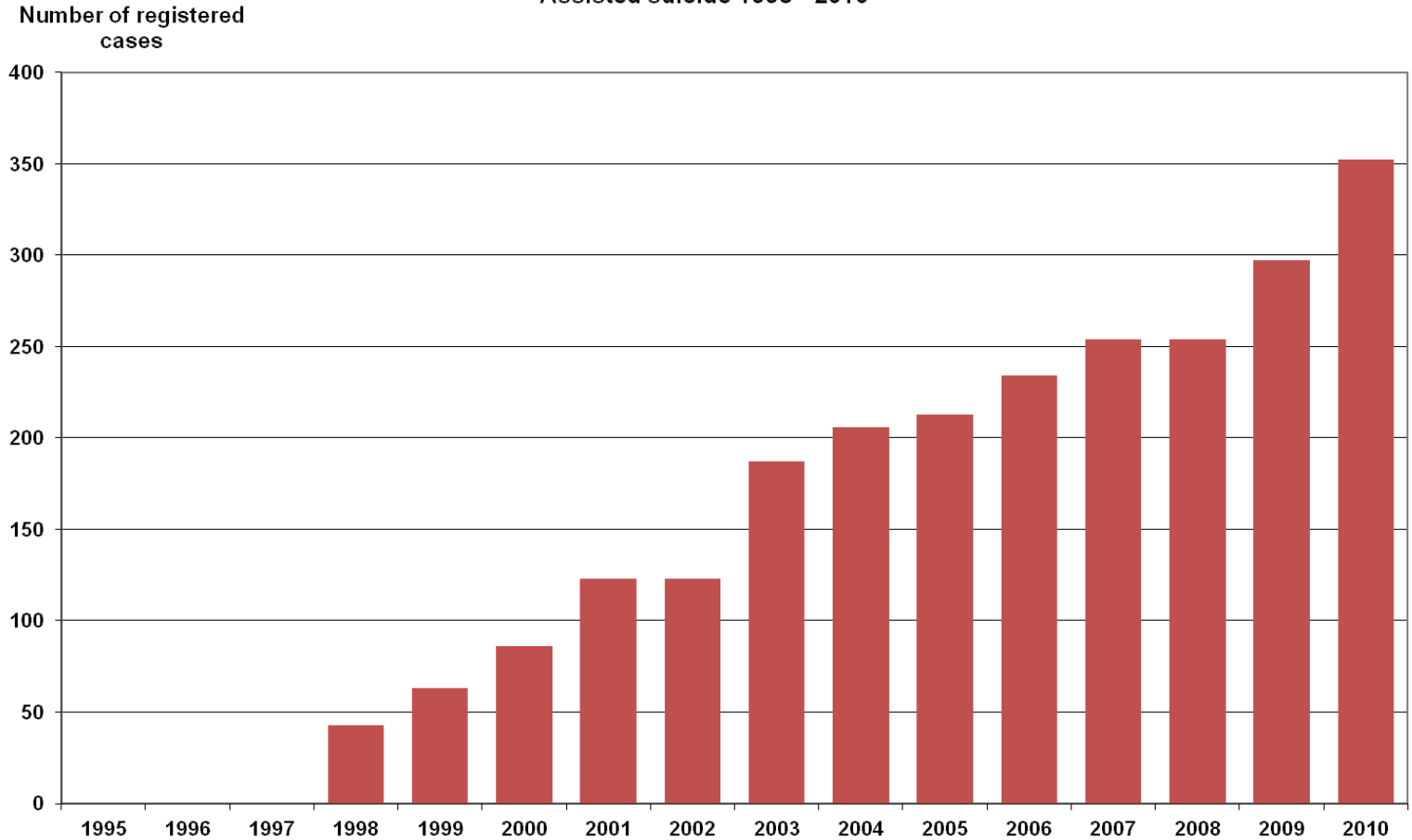
- Federal level
- Cantonal level Vaud, Zürich
- Organisations: SAMW



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# Frequencies

Assisted suicide 1998 - 2010



Assisted suicide in Switzerland (1982 - ) 2006 - 2010

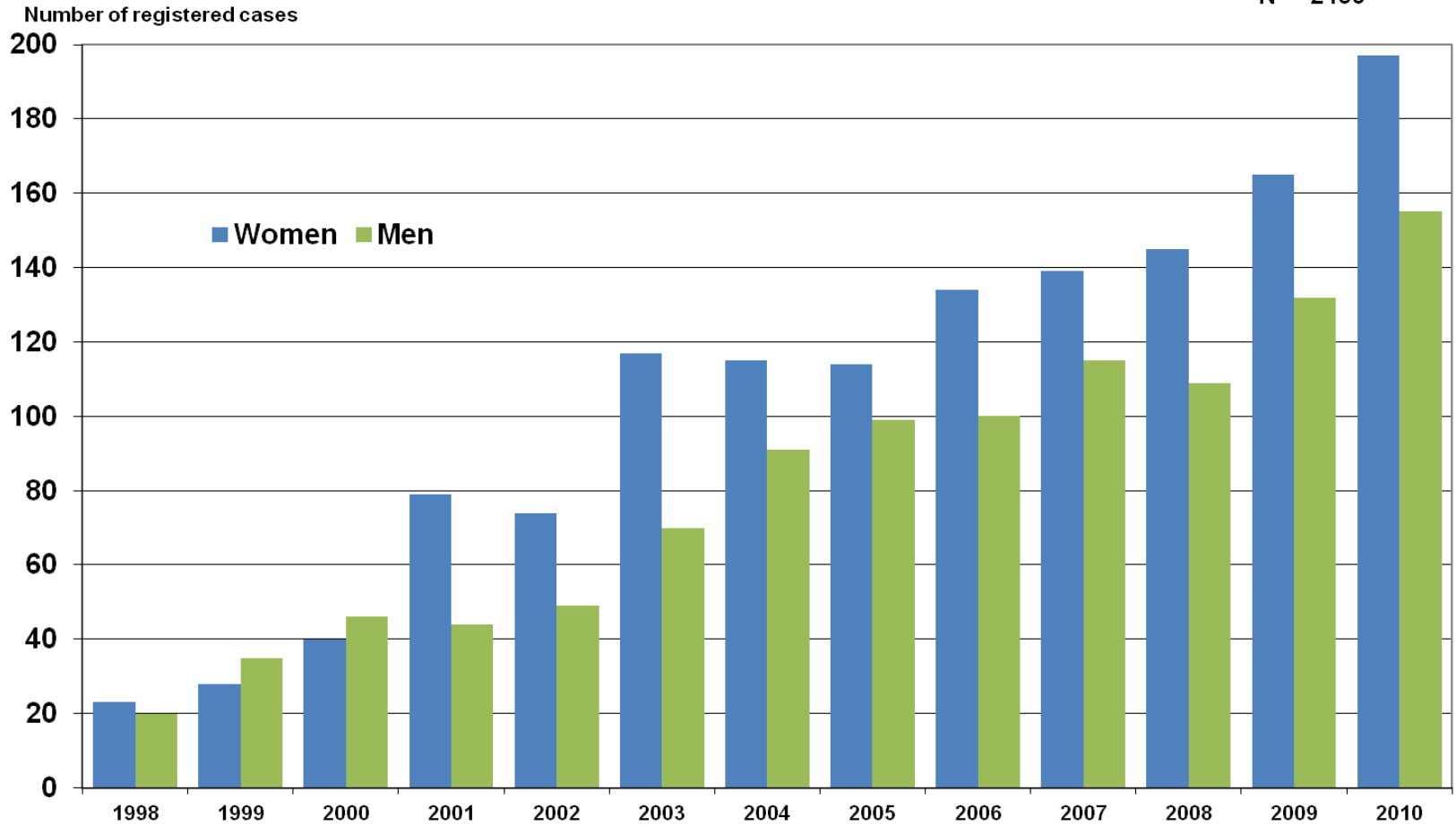
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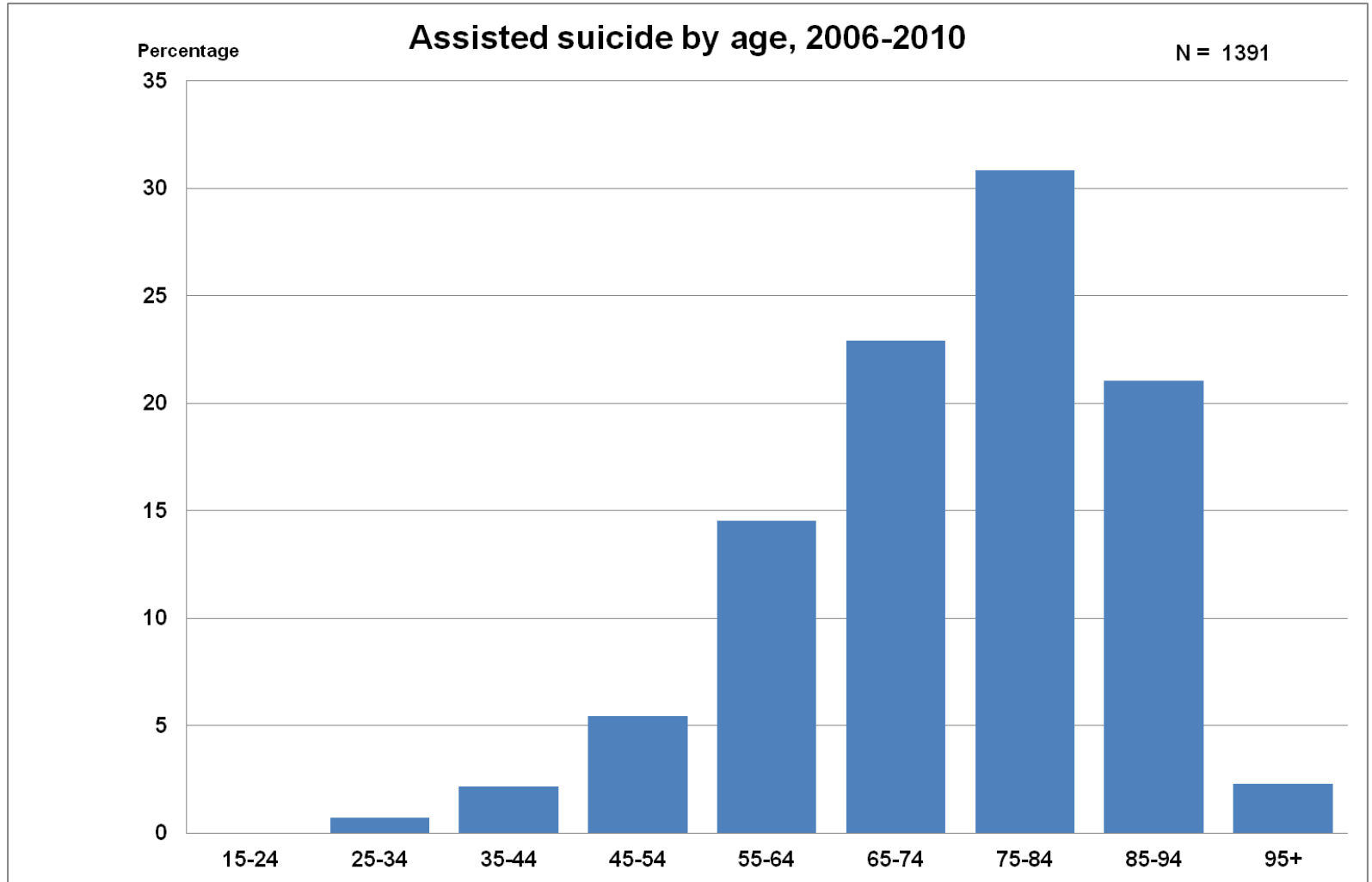
## Assisted suicide, by sex 1998 - 2010

N = 2435





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Assisted suicide in Switzerland (1982 - ) 2006 – 2010

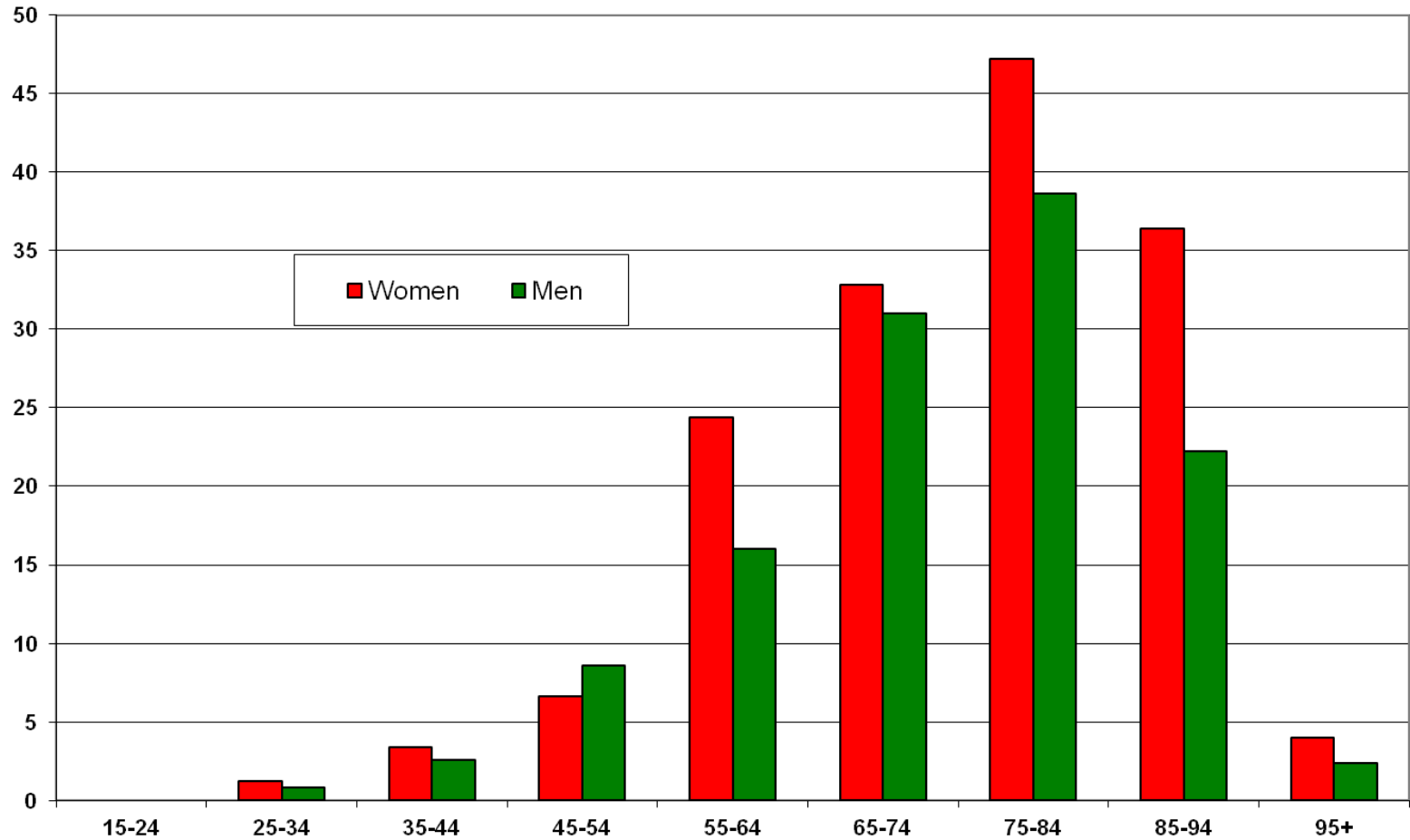
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## Assisted suicide, by age and sex 2006-2010

Mean number of cases per year



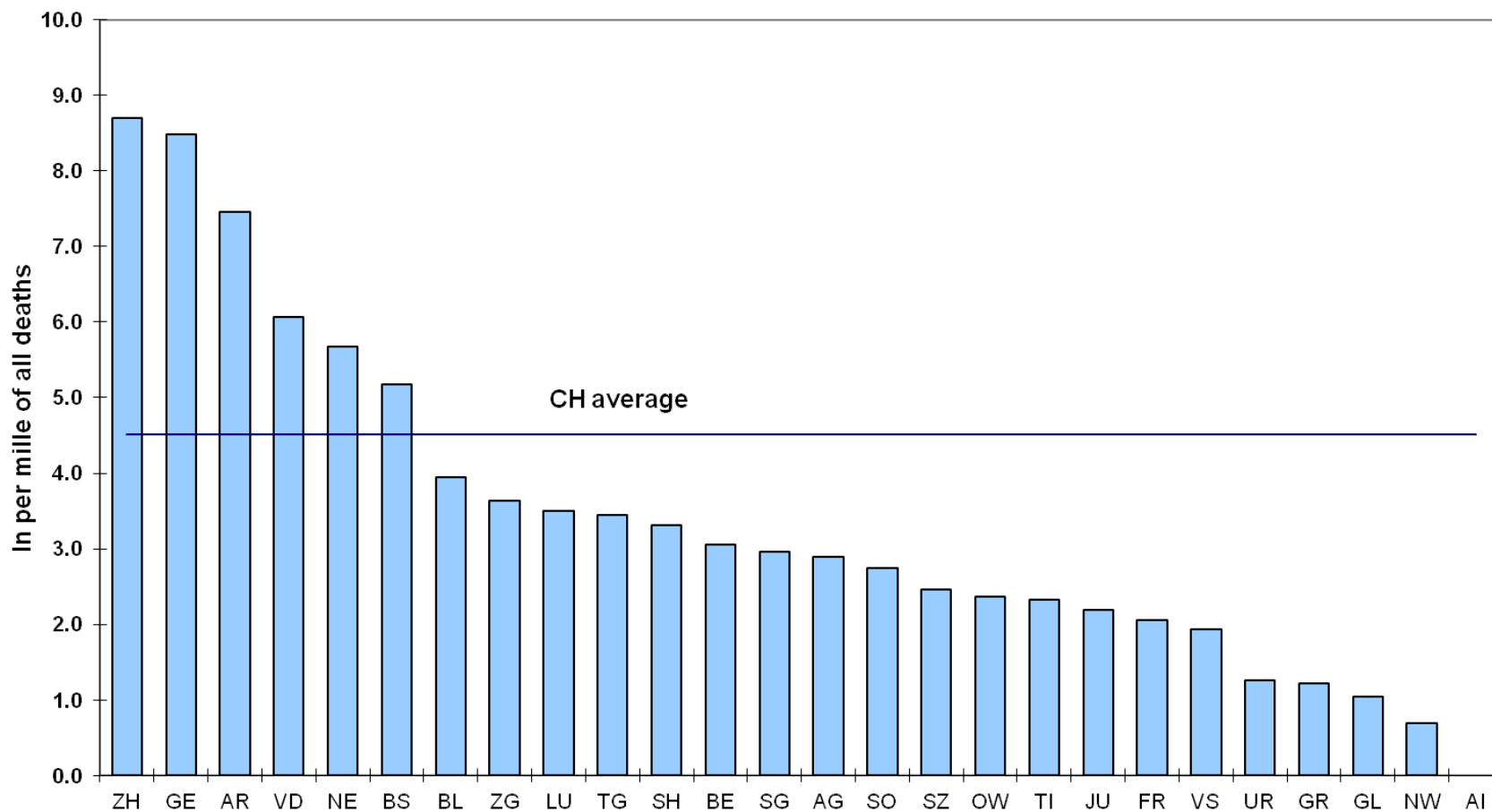
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## Assisted suicide, by canton of residence 2006-2010



Assisted suicide in Switzerland (1982 - ) 2006 – 2010

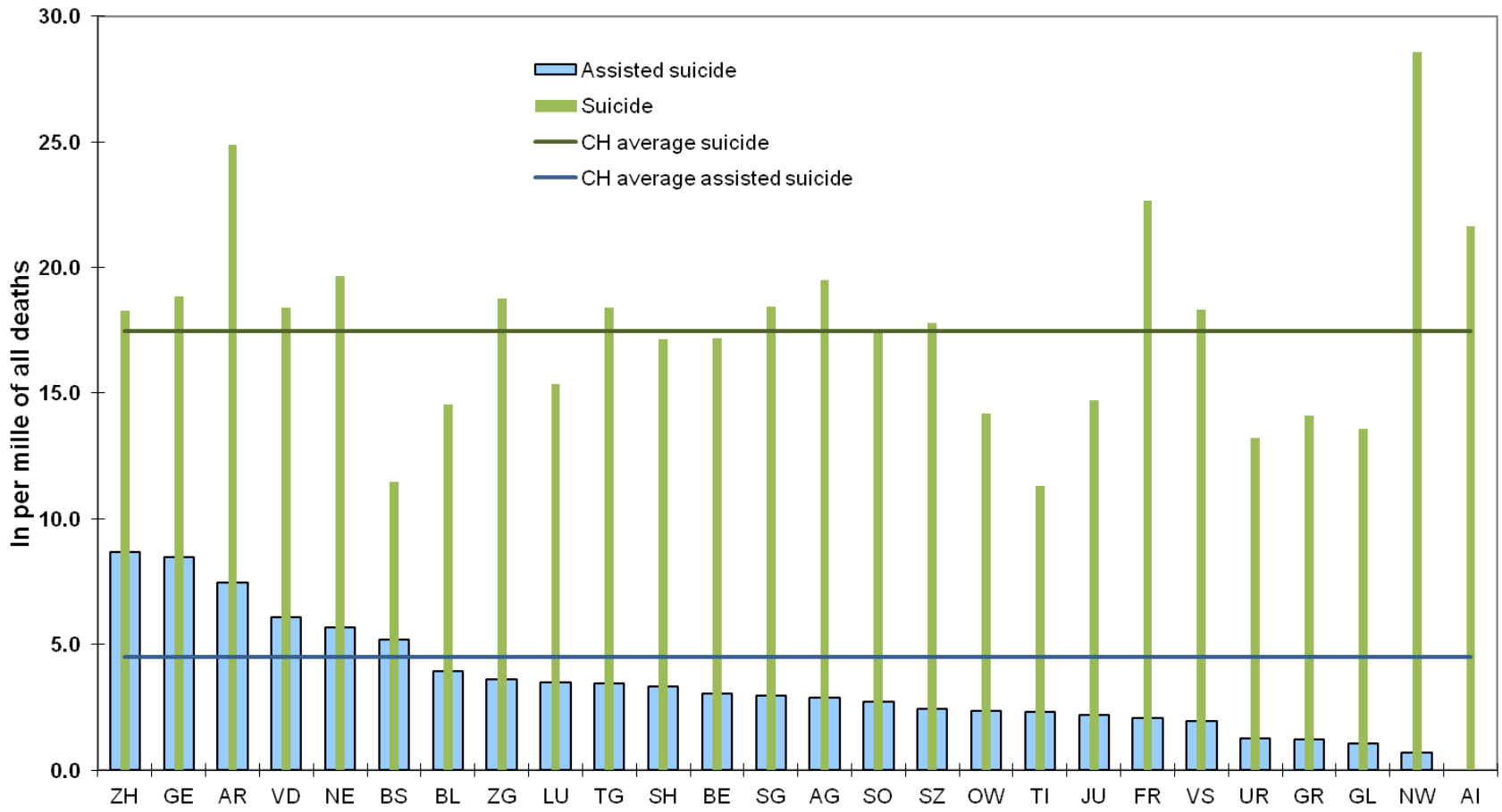
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## Suicide and assisted suicide, by canton of residence 2006-2010

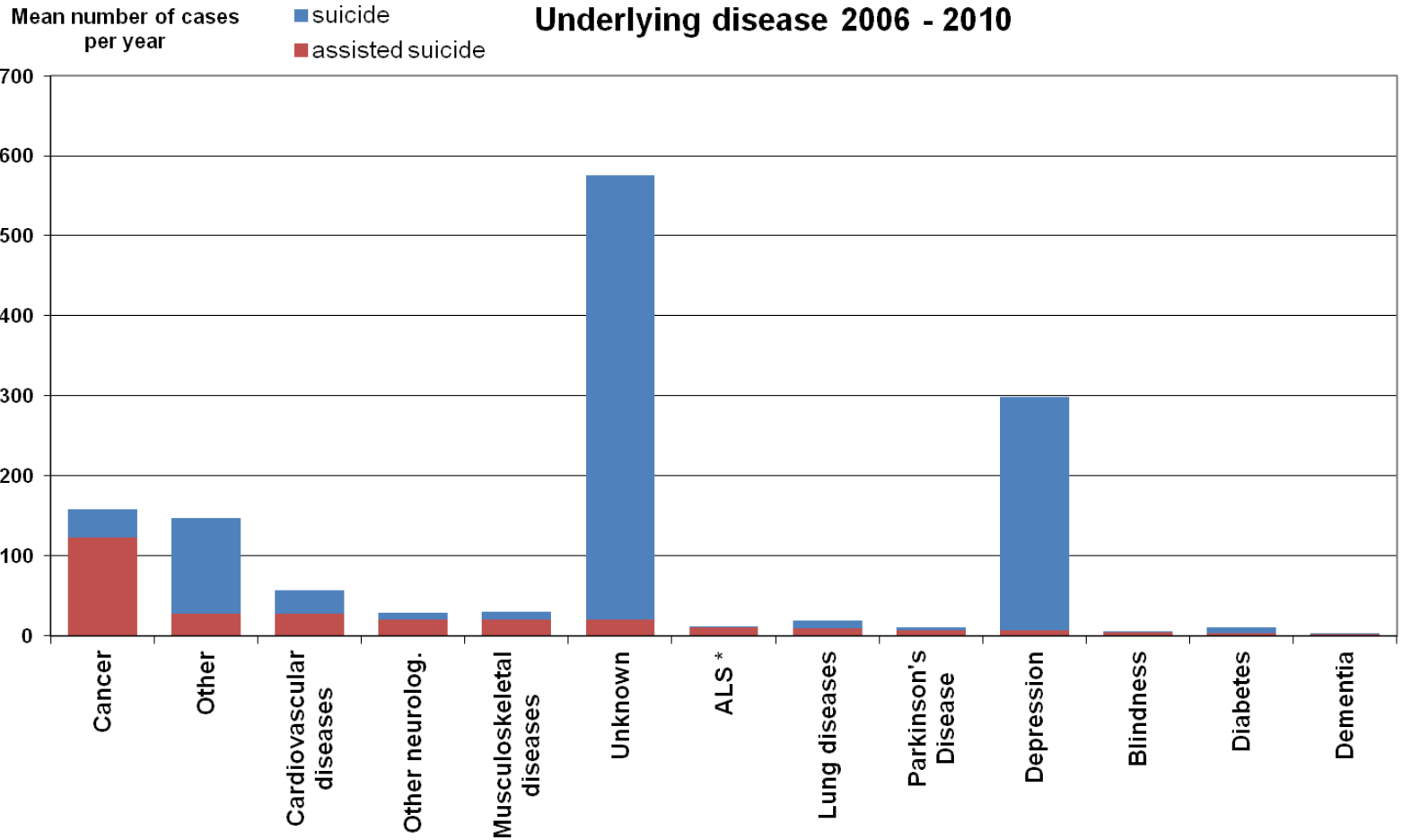


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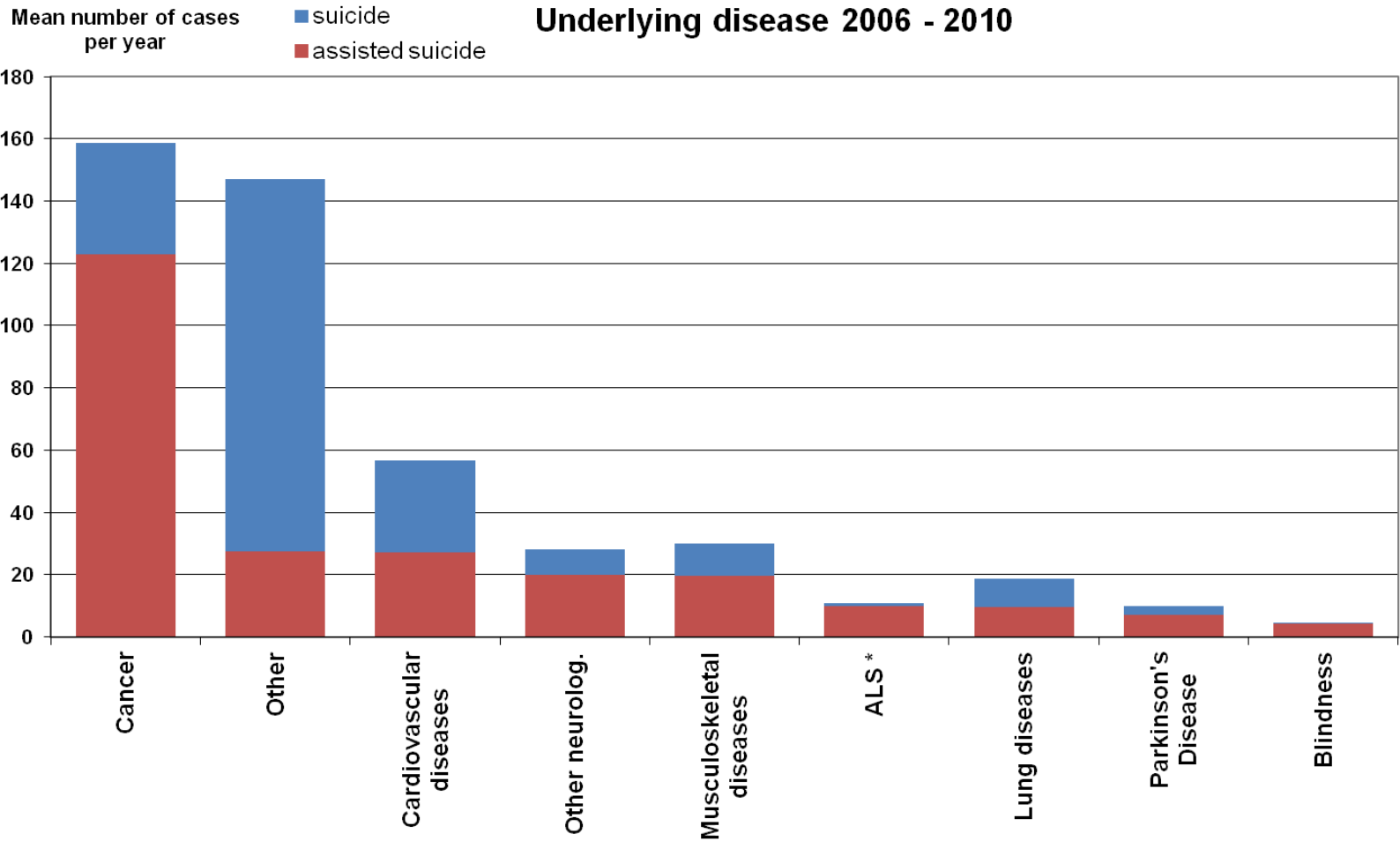


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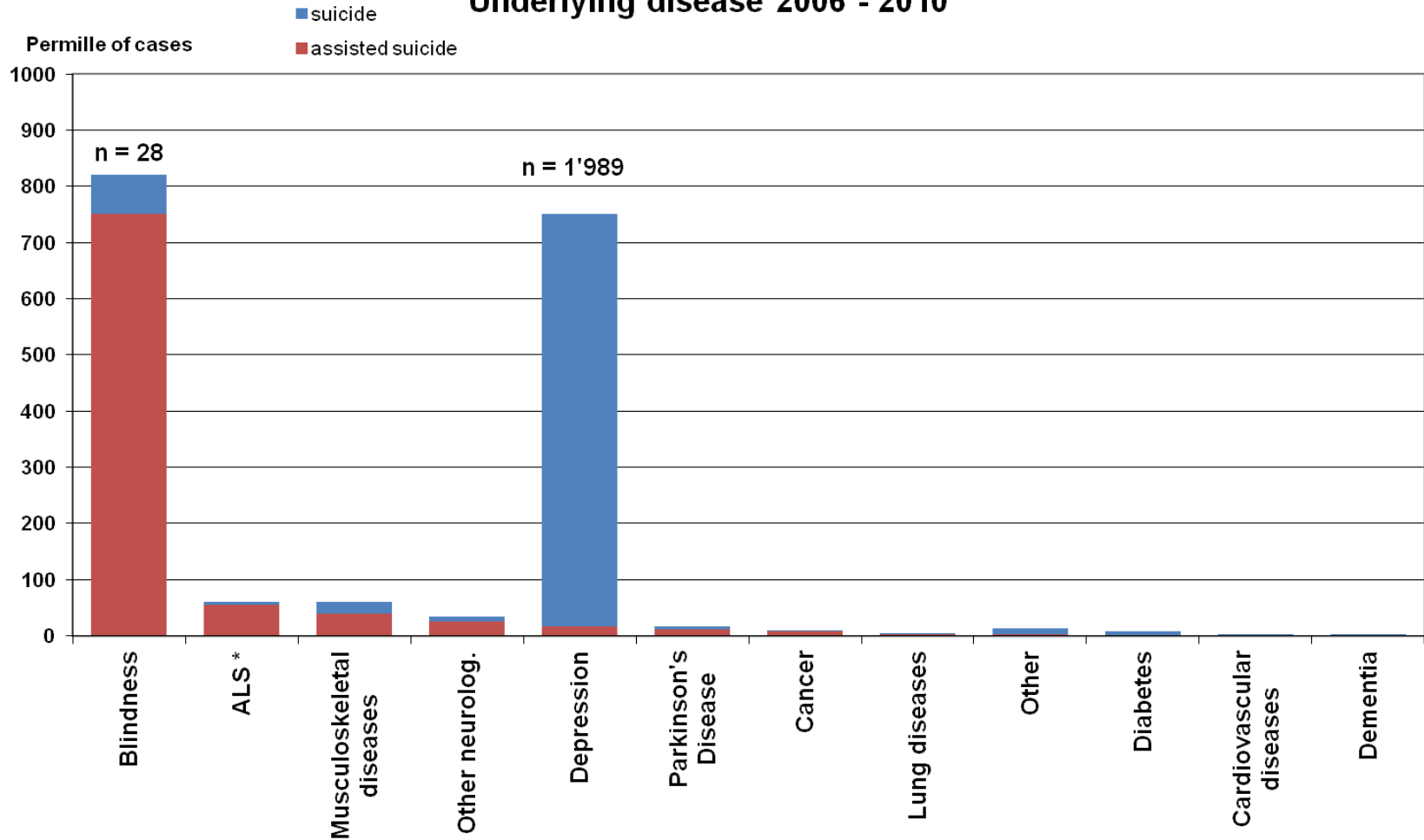
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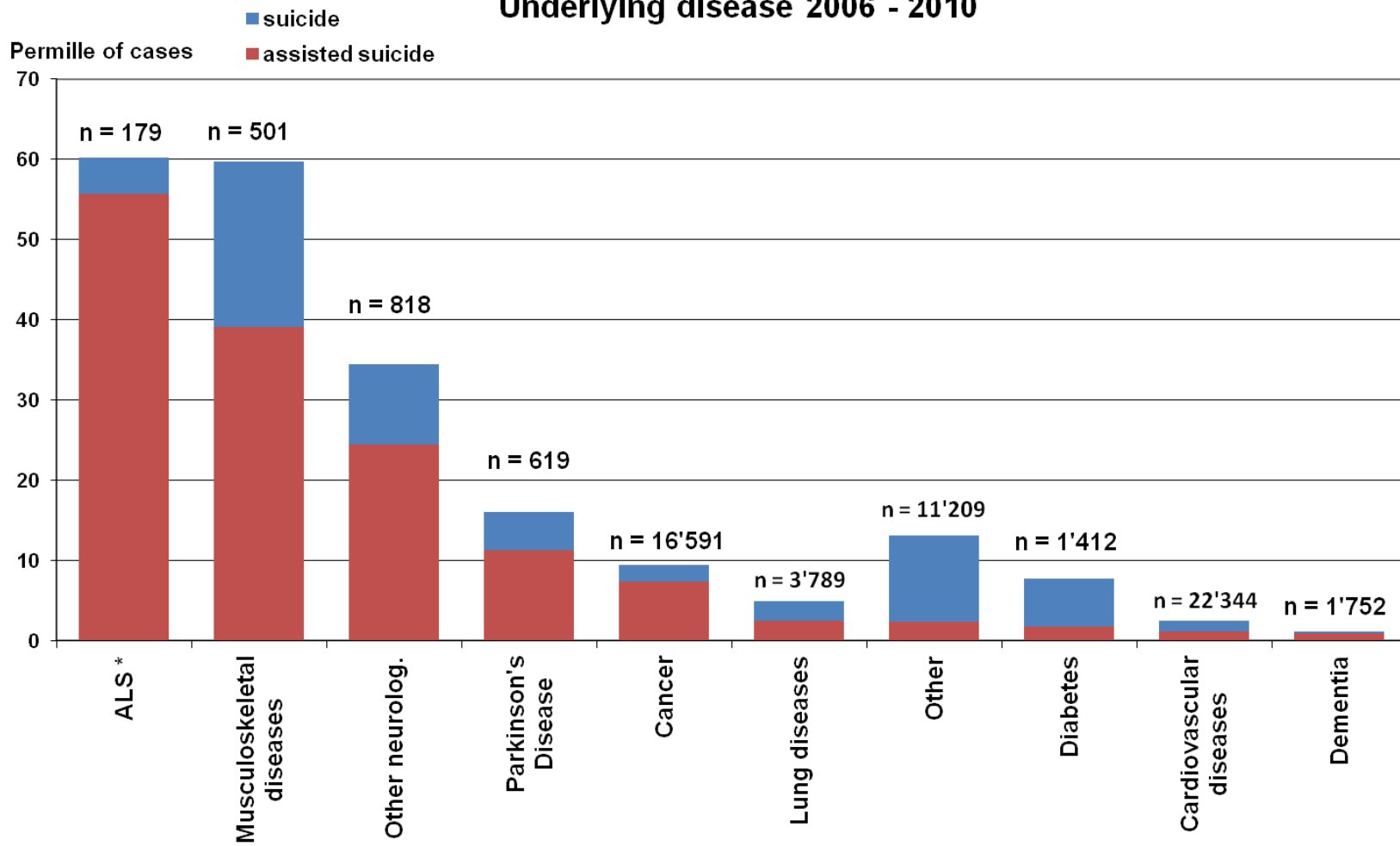
## Underlying disease 2006 - 2010





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## Underlying disease 2006 - 2010





# Conclusion

- Cancer is frequent, but only a small proportion of patients asks for assisted suicide
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is rare, but a high proportion of patients requests assisted suicide
- Parkinson's disease, other neurodegenerative diseases and musculoskeletal problems are also frequent diseases, where patients ask for assisted suicide
- Blindness, depression, multiple diseases, pain are other reasons behind the requests. On their own these diseases are not fatal.



## Next steps

In June 2011 the Federal Council decided

- not to regulate organised assisted suicide,
- to prioritise suicide prevention,
- to promote palliative care.

The focus is on the improvement of self-determination at the end of life by providing options.

The Federal Statistical Office will continue the monitoring.

We would like to improve information on concomitant diseases.