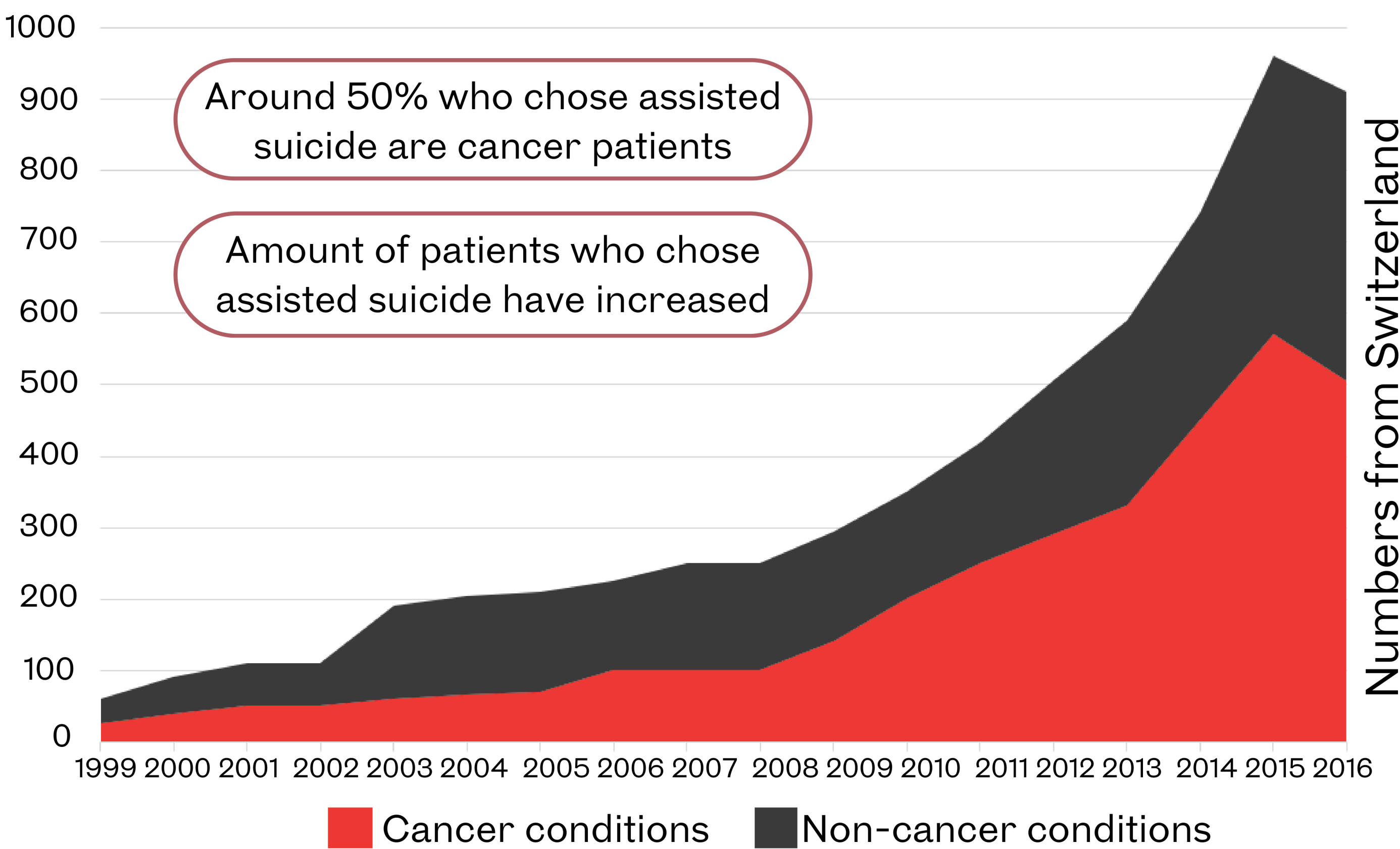
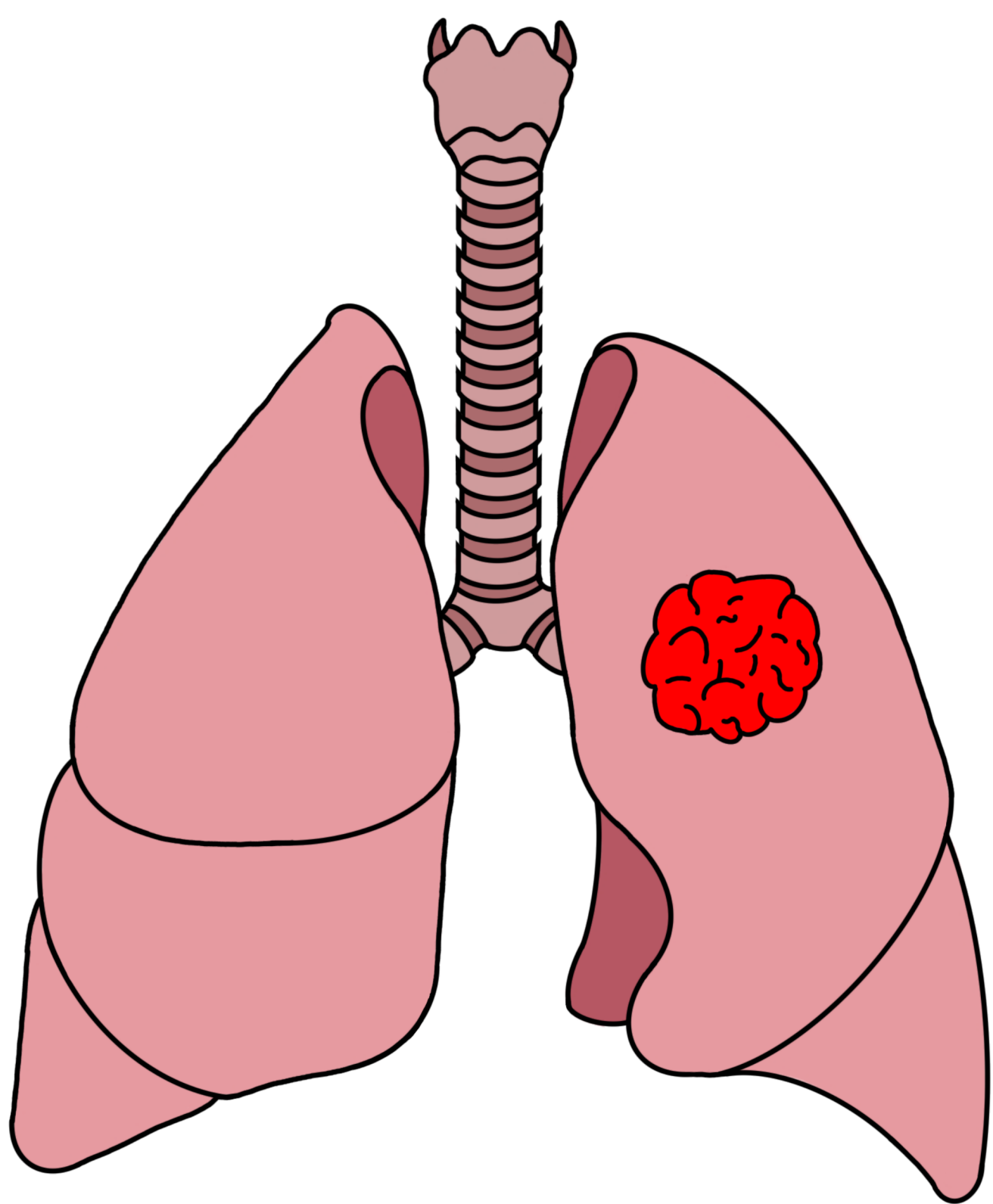
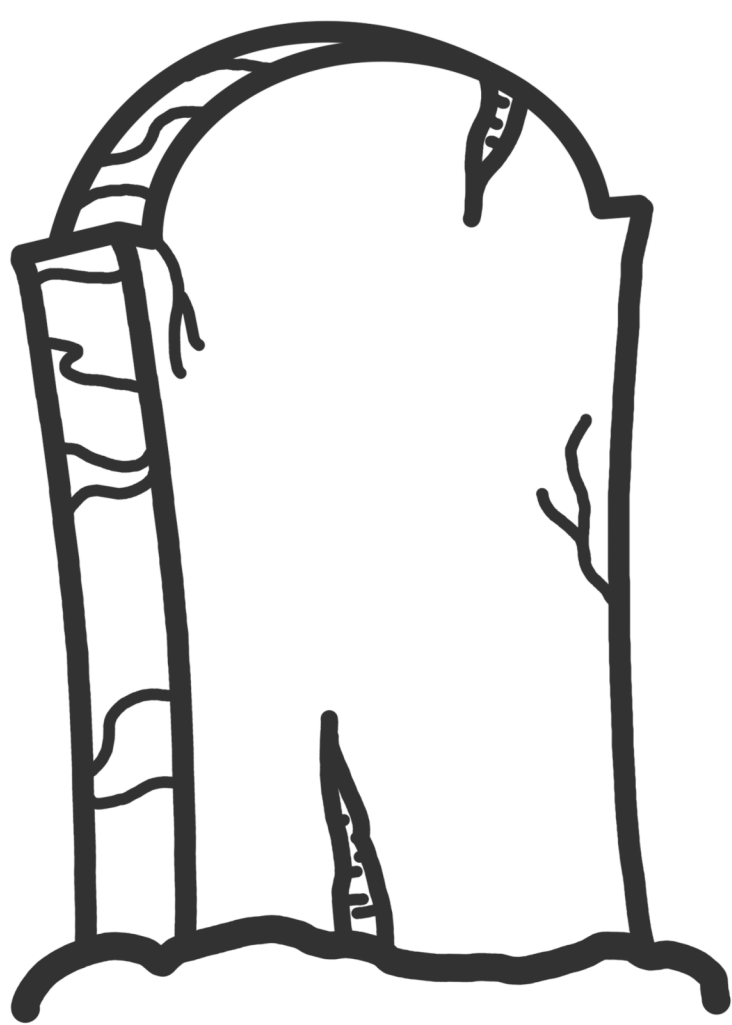


Should Norway legalize assisted suicide for terminal cancer patients?



Assisted suicide involves a doctor providing the patient with the life ending medication, and the patient choosing if/when they want to take it.

In Norway this is prohibited and can lead to 8-21 years in jail, but in Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg this is legal and practiced.



✓ Pro

- Autonomy is safeguarded when the person makes the determination themselves
- Respects the person's right to decide on their own life and death
- Gives the opportunity to take control of one's own death and avoid unnecessary suffering and pain.
- Incurable cancer patients are allowed to end their suffering in a dignified and humane way
- Can reduce costs associated with long-term care of terminally ill patients
- Family members do not have to see their loved ones suffer unnecessarily, and they do not have to make choices about care

✗ Con

- Doctors have an obligation to do no harm
- Incorrect prognoses can lead to the wrong choice when the person could have a good quality of life
- Cognitively competent and mentally ill can be confused, where mentally ill people with suicidal thoughts should be treated, not killed
- Elderly and disabled people may be pressured to choose assisted suicide
- Risk of abuse or failure to implement medicine properly, even with strict guidelines, can have serious consequences

