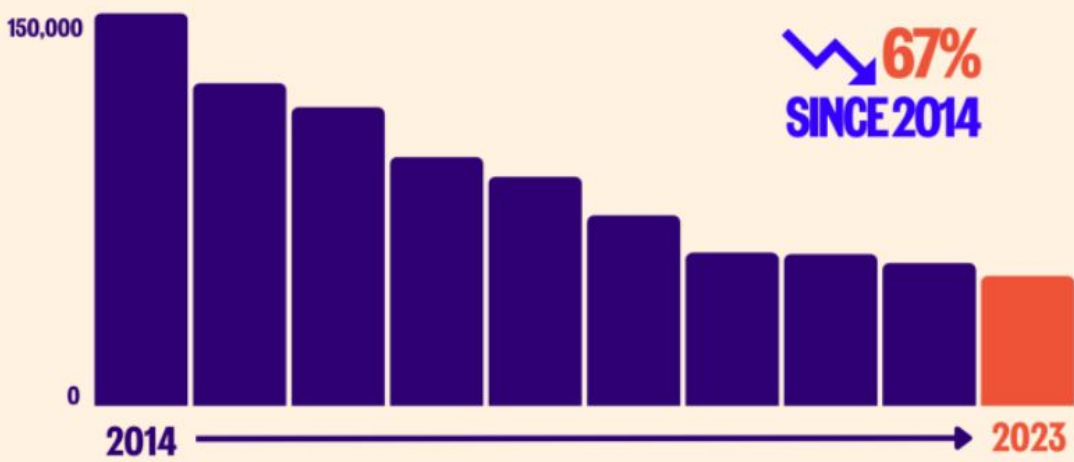


Many people are making successful efforts to reduce and avoid ‘severe’ suffering. For example, the UK has seen a **67% reduction** in experimental procedures causing severe suffering since 2014



Of all species, mice are most likely to experience severe suffering. In the EU and Norway in 2020, **10% of procedures** were severe, but 12.5% of mouse use was severe¹



This is a human welfare issue too - severe procedures are associated with **emotional burnout**²

The reductions in experimental procedures causing severe suffering have been due to:

But some areas of research and testing appear to be harder to refine. These ‘high-hanging fruit’ include some:

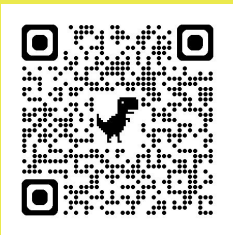
- earlier scientific and humane **endpoints**
- better **screening** of animals and strain selection
- use of models at **earlier disease stages**
- better animal **husbandry and care** practices
- use of **technology** to monitor clinical signs (like temperature transponders)
- improved **communication** within research teams
- better **training** for animal technologists and care personnel
- more **involvement** of Animal Welfare Bodies, Animal Ethics Committees and equivalent bodies

- animal disease models
- batch potency tests
- disease diagnosis tests
- acute ecotoxicity studies



If you are directly involved with any ‘severe’ procedures - for example as a scientist, veterinarian, animal technologist or Animal Ethics Committee member:

- Speak to your colleagues and collectively **set an objective** to reduce and avoid severe suffering
- Use the Focus on Severe Suffering **Roadmap**³
- Work through ‘**the reductions have been due to**’ above - how many could you apply?
- **Get together with others** in the field, in a range of roles, and use a ‘helpathon’ based approach to address severe aspects of the protocol⁴
- If the ‘severe’ severity is due to regulatory requirements, **critically review** whether the level of suffering is actually required to obtain the data. Discuss this with the regulator if necessary
- **Share any successes** you have, directly with colleagues and in publications, posters and presentations



1. Source: [ALURES database](#)
2. [3rc.org/compassion-fatigue/](#)
3. [focusonseveresuffering.co.uk/roadmap/](#)
4. [helpathonhotel.org/practical](#)
Images created in BioRender

