

Access to palliative care in UK and elsewhere

v2



Every individual has the right to receive specialist palliative care



Unfortunately, many do not have access to the care they need

United Kingdom:

- Each day, over **320** patients fail to get the specialist palliative care they need¹
- Referrals to hospice are often very late in the illness²
- Current UK policies lack clear priorities on how to improve palliative or end of life care³

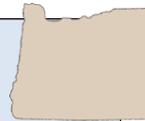


Australia:

59% of hospital patients are not referred for specialist palliative care⁴

Oregon:

- In 2020, one third described inadequate pain control or fear of pain as a reason for requesting an assisted death⁵
- Oregon prescribed half as many strong pain killers in 2019 compared with 2006⁶
- Only 13% of those who underwent an assisted death were referred for specialist palliative care input⁷



Canada:

- In 2019 only 16% of those dying an assisted death had access to palliative care⁸
- Less than half of assisted death patients had seen a specialist palliative care team⁹



References

1. Hospice care in the UK. London: Hospice UK, 2016. www.hospiceuk.org/docs/default-source/What-We-Offer/publications-documents-and-files/hospice-care-in-the-uk-2016.pdf?sfvrsn=0
2. Allsop MJ *et al.* Duration and determinants of hospice-based specialist palliative care: a national retrospective cohort study. *Palliative Medicine*, 2018; **32**(8): 1322-3. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0269216318781417>
3. Sleeman K *et al.* Priorities and opportunities for palliative and end of life care in United Kingdom health policies: a national documentary analysis. *BMC Palliative Care*, 2021; **20**, 108. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12904-021-00802-6>
4. Mitchell I *et al.* Understanding end-of-life care in Australian hospitals. *Australian Health Review*, 2020; <https://doi.org/10.1071/AH20223>
5. Oregon Death with Dignity Act: annual reports. <http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PROVIDERPARTNERRESOURCES/EVALUATIONRESEARCH/DEATHWITHDIGNITYACT/Pages/ar-index.aspx>
6. Centre for Disease Control and Prevention: US prescribing rate maps. See <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/maps/rxrate-maps.html>
7. Ganzini L, Nelson HD, Schmidt TA, Karaemer DF, Delorit MA, Lee MA. Physicians experiences with the Oregon Death with Dignity Act. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 342: 557-63, 2000. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJM200002243420806>
8. Fourth Interim Report on Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada, 2019. See: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/medical-assistance-dying-annual-report-2019.html>
9. Munro C, Romanova A, Webber C, Kekewich M, Rayelle R, Tanuseputro P. Involvement of palliative care in patients requesting medical assistance in dying. *Canadian Family Physician*, 2020; **66**: 833-42. <https://www.cfp.ca/content/66/11/833>