



Fast Facts

Hospice Palliative Care in Canada

- Over three in ten Canadians (32%) personally suffer from a chronic illness while four in ten (39%) have a sufferer in their immediate family. When taken together, six in ten Canadians (57%) either personally suffer from a chronic illness or have a sufferer in their immediate family.ⁱ
- If the death occurred in the home, Canadians (90%) are more likely to say that the setting matched the family member's preference. Seven in ten (69%) of those whose family member died in a hospital believe the same.ⁱⁱ
- Half of Canadians (50%) feel that their family member's death involved some pain, but that it was managed well. The remaining group feel that the family member's death was either pain and symptom free (27%) or that there were some issues relating to pain and symptom management (24%).ⁱⁱⁱ
- The average number of hours per week that Canadians expect to be caring for a dying family member is 54.4 hours.^{iv}
- In 2013, expectations of commitment have increased. More Canadians this year expect that proper care will require two or more days of commitment each week (73%) compared to 10 years ago (59%).^v
- When asked whether they feel they could devote that much time to caring for a dying loved one, the majority of Canadians (65%) indicate that they would not be able to devote that much time.^{vi}
- The topic of end-of-life is on people's minds. Three-quarters of Canadians (74%) report having thought about end-of-life.^{vii}
- Among those Canadians that have a preference of where they die, the majority would prefer to die in their home (75%).^{viii}
- Many of the Canadians surveyed feel that most of the statements are a strong or very strong influence on why people die in a hospital rather than in their home. The most important reason why this appears to occur is that when death is imminent, the patient is transferred to a hospital to provide the required treatment. Half of Canadians (50%) feel that this is a very strong reason for deaths occurring in hospital, with another one-third (31%) saying this is a strong reason.^{ix}
- When asked about the importance of discussing end-of-life care with different types of individuals, six in ten Canadians surveyed (61%) say that having the discussion is extremely important with at least other one individual.^x
- The majority of Canadians (52%) indicate that the advance care planning process should begin when a person is healthy, yet only 13% have an advance care plan prepared.^{xi}
- Almost half of Canadians (47%) say hospice palliative care is available to all those at the end of their life regardless of their illness. Only 19% say it is available to those dying of life threatening illnesses. However, one-third of Canadians (34%) are not sure to whom hospice palliative care services are available.^{xii}
- Three-quarters of Canadians would turn to their family physician (73%), for more information on hospice palliative care services.^{xiii}



- Support for hospice palliative care is almost unanimous, with the vast majority of Canadians (96%) being supportive, including 66% who are very supportive.^{xiv}
- The majority of Canadians (73%) feel that the provincial governments place too little priority on end-of-life care, including over one-third (35%) who feel that it is far too little.^{xv}
- The vast majority of Canadians believe that hospice palliative care has a positive impact.
 - The following statements about hospice palliative care indicate a large majority of Canadians either agree or strongly agree. People feel it:
 - Greatly reduces the stress and burden placed on the family (93%);
 - Should involve all care providers (94%);
 - Improves quality of life for patients (94%);
 - Should be provided in the patient's setting of choice (93%);
 - Should be integrated for all people with chronic, life-limiting conditions (90%);
 - Helps a patient manage their choices along the way (93%); and
 - Should be available early in the course of a disease (87%).^{xvi}

If you have any questions about the survey results, The Way Forward and palliative and end-of-life care services, please contact: Vanessa Schwarz, Communications Officer, Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, 613-241-3663 ext 229, vschwarz@bruyere.org.

ⁱ A quantitative online research survey of 2,976 Canadian adults. Completed using Harris/Decima's proprietary online panel so is precluded from reporting a margin of error. Data were collected between July 5 and August 7 2013. Survey data were weighted using 2011 Census to reflect general population (gender, age and region). P.8

ⁱⁱ Ibid. 13

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid. 16

^{iv} Ibid. 18

^v Ibid. 18

^{vi} Ibid. 19

^{vii} Ibid. 21

^{viii} Ibid. 22

^{ix} Ibid. 26

^x Ibid. 29

^{xi} Ibid. 33, 35

^{xii} Ibid. 43

^{xiii} Ibid. 44

^{xiv} Ibid. 46

^{xv} Ibid. 49

^{xvi} Ibid. 47