

Keywords: Cancer; Palliative care; Quality of life; Health care; End-of-life care; Hospice care; Health equity

Introduction

In the United States, approximately 1.5 million people are diagnosed with cancer each year. Cancer is the leading cause of death in the United States, and the number of people living with cancer is increasing. As the number of people living with cancer increases, the need for palliative care is also increasing. Palliative care is a medical specialty that focuses on relieving the suffering of people with serious illness. It is a team-based approach that involves the patient, family, and healthcare providers. Palliative care is not just for people with cancer, but for people with any serious illness. It is a holistic approach that addresses the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the patient. Palliative care is an essential part of the healthcare system, and it is important that we continue to improve access to this care for all people.

Disparities in access to palliative care: In a 1946 study, 61% of patients with cancer received palliative care. However, in a 2015 study, only 75.5% of patients with cancer received palliative care. This study found that patients with cancer who were African American, Hispanic, or who had a lower socioeconomic status were less likely to receive palliative care. These findings highlight the need to address disparities in access to palliative care. We need to ensure that all people have access to the care they need, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

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