

Growth of Palliative Care in U.S. Hospitals

2016 Snapshot (2000–2015)

What is Palliative Care?

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses. It focuses on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness—whatever the diagnosis. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family.

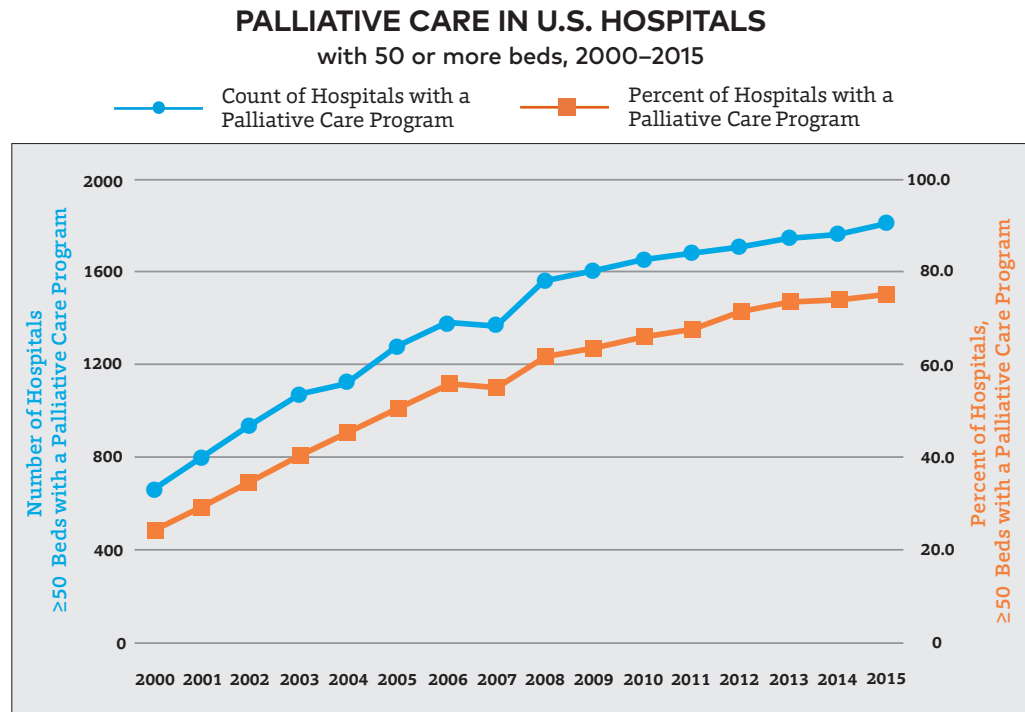
Palliative care is provided by a team of doctors, nurses, and other specialists, who work together with a patient's other doctors to provide an extra layer of support. It is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and can be provided along with curative treatment.

Palliative care improves health care quality in three significant ways:

- Effectively relieves physical and emotional suffering
- Strengthens patient-family-physician communication and decision making
- Ensures well-coordinated care across health care settings

Palliative care prevalence in U.S. hospitals has shown a steady increase since 2000.

In 2000, 24.5% of hospitals with more than 50 beds reported palliative care programs. In 2015, 75.0% of such hospitals reported a program.



Source: Center to Advance Palliative Care, January 2017

Data Sources: 1) American Hospital Association (AHA) Annual Survey Database™, 2000-2015. Chicago, IL: Health Forum, an American Hospital Association affiliate, and 2) the National Palliative Care Registry™, 2008-2015, a project of the Center to Advance Palliative Care and the National Palliative Care Research Center.

Methodology: The AHA Annual Survey asks hospitals to self-report the presence of a palliative care program at their hospital. For data points 2000 through 2007, data are limited to AHA Annual Survey responses. Beginning in 2008, hospitals that participated in The National Palliative Care Registry™ are included in the count, regardless of their participation in the AHA Annual Survey.

The Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) and the National Palliative Care Research Center (NPCRC) are affiliated with the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and are dedicated to increasing access to quality palliative care services for people facing serious illness.

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