

PALLIATIVE CARE IN COLORADO: Trends, Gaps & Opportunities



RESEARCH QUESTIONS*

- Where are palliative care services being provided across the state?
- Are facilities providing services using team-based approaches for care or a single provider?
- Are all patients being offered palliative care services or just a specific sub-set of patients?
- Is palliative care reimbursed by insurers or do facilities see it as a cost of doing business?

* Study was conducted via structured interviews with all hospitals and hospice facilities across the state

CO STATE PALLIATIVE CARE DEFINITION

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses. This type of care is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain and stress of 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 physicians, nurses, and other specialists who work with a patient's other health care providers to provide an extra layer of support. Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness and can be provided together with curative treatment.

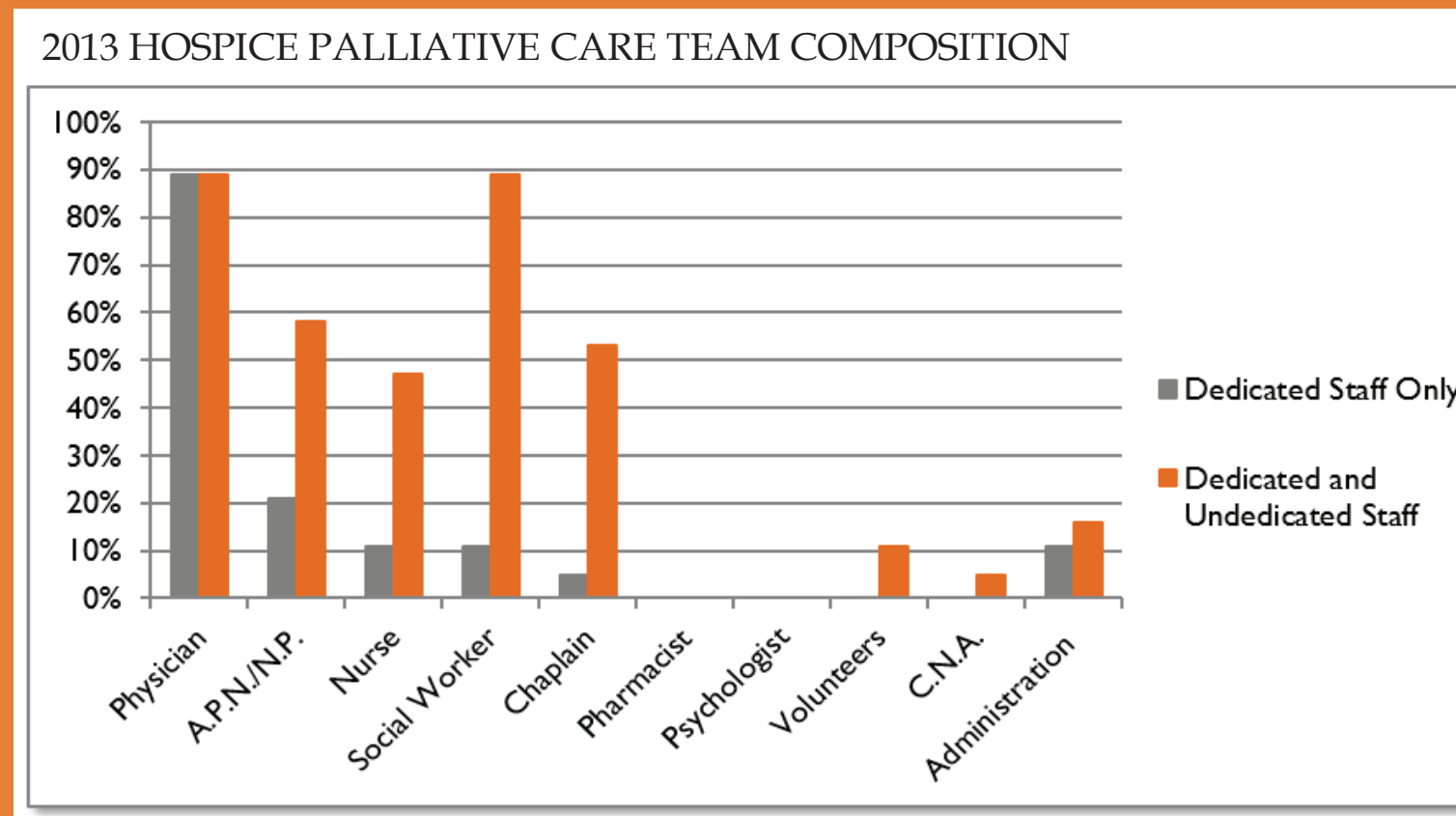
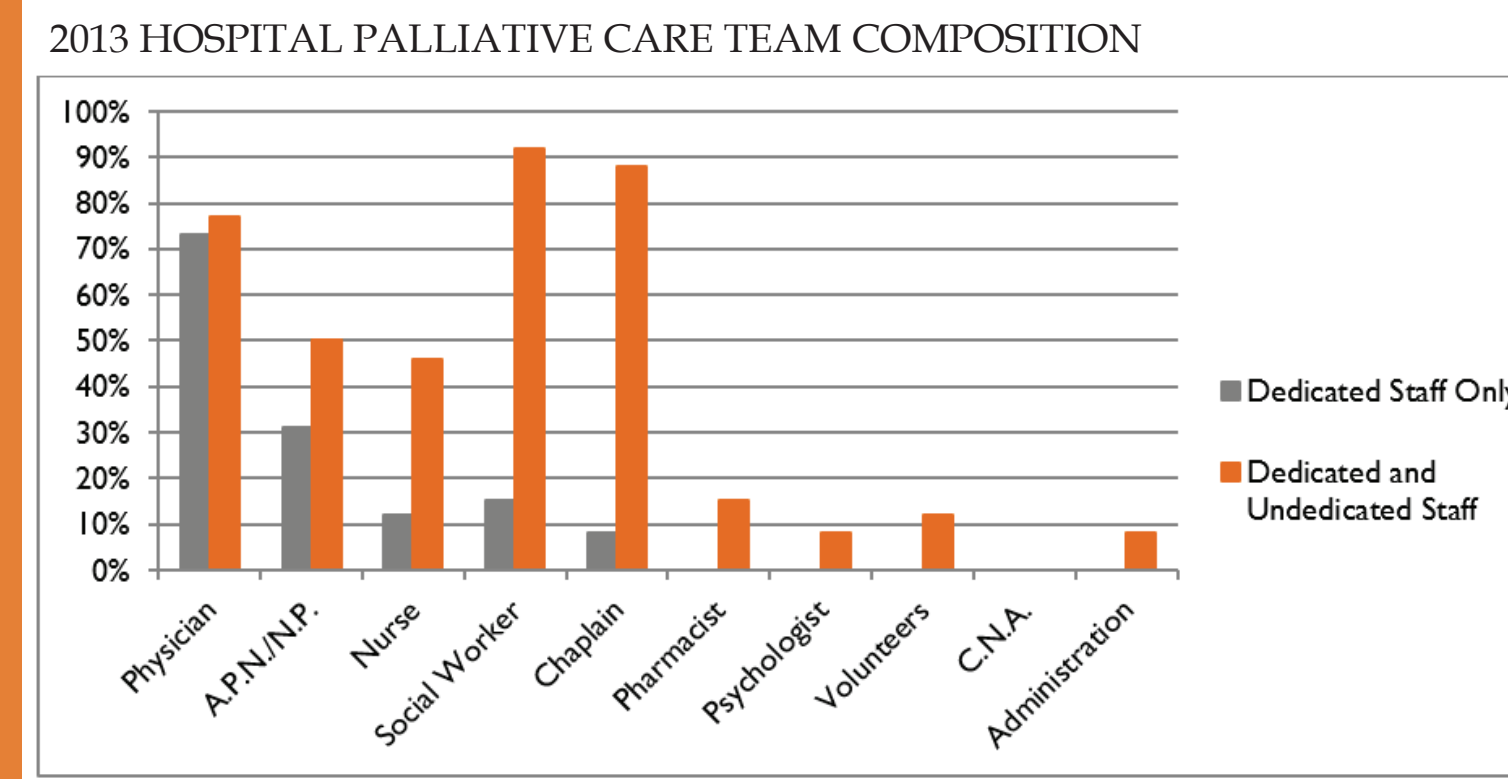
Colorado Standards for Hospitals and Health Facilities, Chapter 2 – General Licensure Standards (6 CCR 1011-1 Chap 02)

Summary of Care in 2008 vs 2013

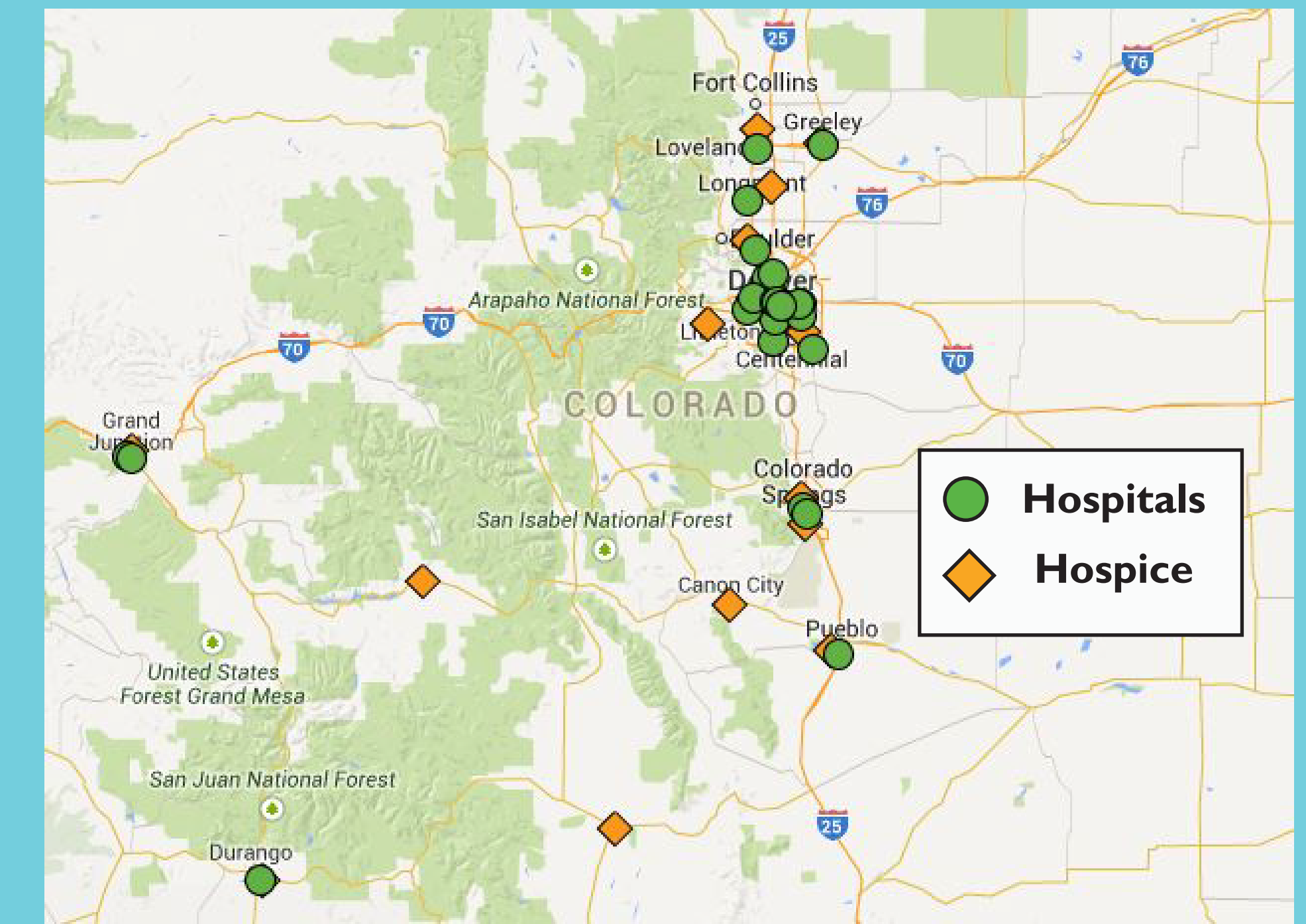
Hospital Palliative Care Services	2008	2013
Number of Hospitals Surveyed	84	99
Number (%) of Hospitals Providing PC Services	21 (25%)	26 (26%)
Palliative Care Consults / Year		
Total	2,184	11,443
Average	146	545
Range	3-720	50-1,800

Hospice Palliative Care Services	2008	2013
Number of Hospices Surveyed	48	53
Number (%) of Hospices Providing PC Services	11 (23%)	19 (36%)
Palliative Care Consults / Year		
Total	1,057	4,362
Average	106	230
Range	14-412	3-2,032

Team Composition



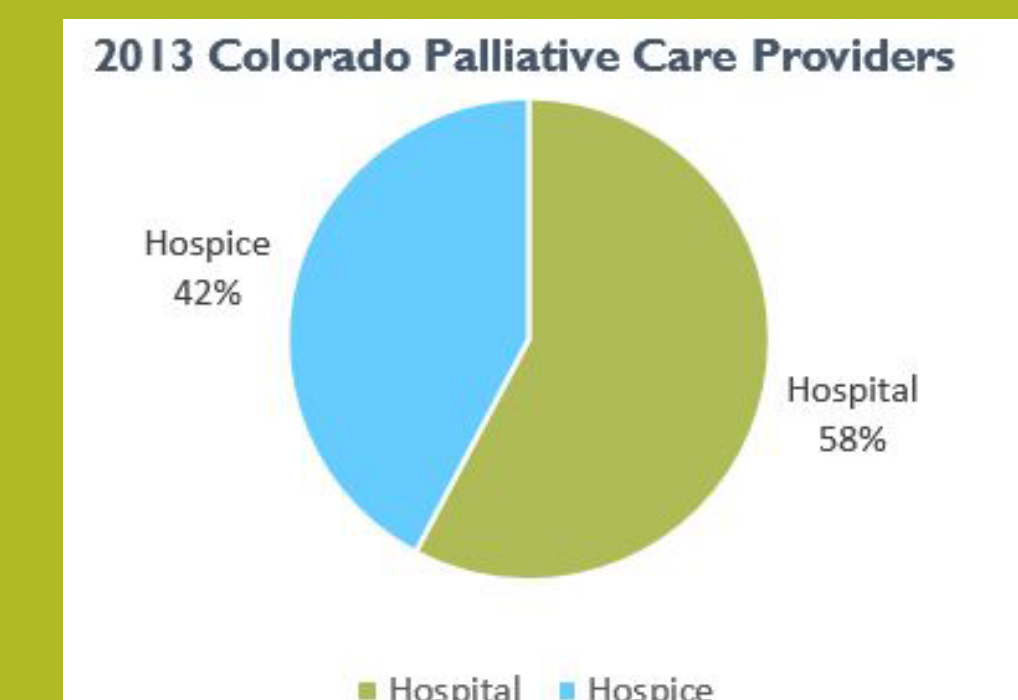
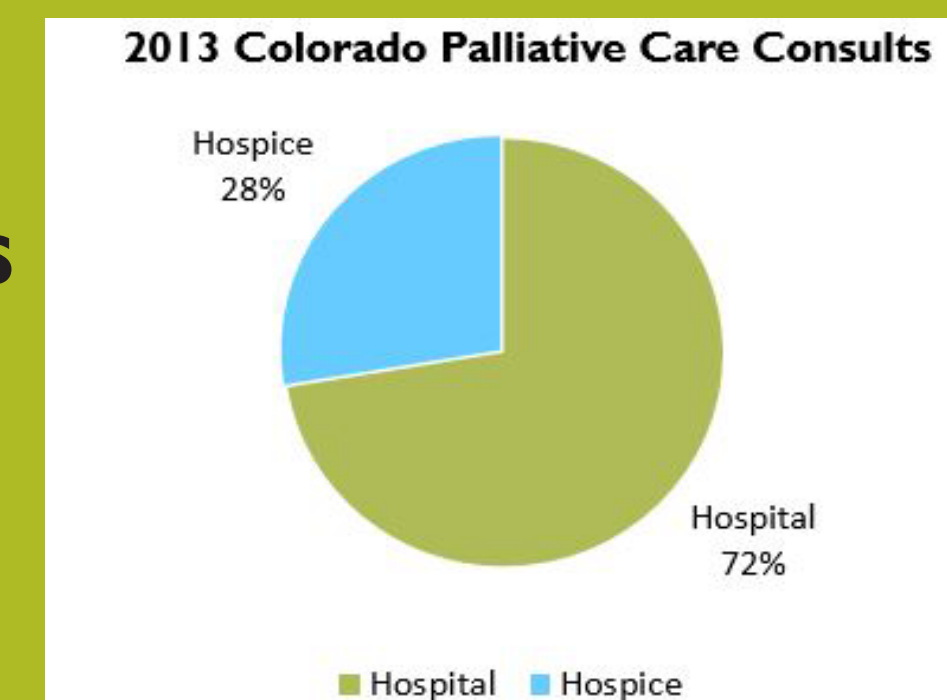
Colorado Palliative Care Service Map



KEY FINDINGS

- **HOSPITAL CONSULTS** increased over **400%** from 2008-2013
 - **HOSPICE CONSULTS** increased over **200%** from 2008-2013
- **REIMBURSEMENT** is a substantial barrier to expanding services
 - Palliative care is **HARD TO ACCESS IN RURAL** Colorado
- **HOSPITALS ARE THE PRIMARY** source of palliative care across the state

Consults and Providers Hospital vs Hospice



CENTER FOR IMPROVING VALUE IN HEALTH CARE