



## Jockey Club End-of-Life and Community Care Project

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2022



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### PRESENTATION:

End-of-life Care and Bereavement  
Care in the COVID-19 context:  
Recommendations from the  
international community

# No Conflicts of Interest to disclose



Executive Director WHPCA

# Topics

What is the status of palliative care & bereavement support worldwide?

How had COVID-19 impacted EOL and Bereavement Care?

What are some recommendations on EOL & bereavement care for clinicians and government policy makers?

# Over a Million Deaths Per Week (before COVID)

Annual Deaths	
Per Year	56,000,000
Per Month	4,679,452.00
Per Day	153,424.70
Per Hour	6,392.70
Per Minute	106.60
Per Second	1.80

# The need for palliative care - a global perspective

- Almost 57 million need
  - 25.7M at EOL
- 69% NCD's
- 76% LMIC
- 67% 50+ / 7% children
- Families (at least 2-4 each)
- ~12% of need for PC met
- at least 18 million die in pain



# Grieving - a global perspective

- 56,000,000 Deaths
- At least 5 grievers per death (US Census)
- 280M Grievors/year
- ~4% prolonged grief disorder 11.2M
- 1 billion attend services yearly







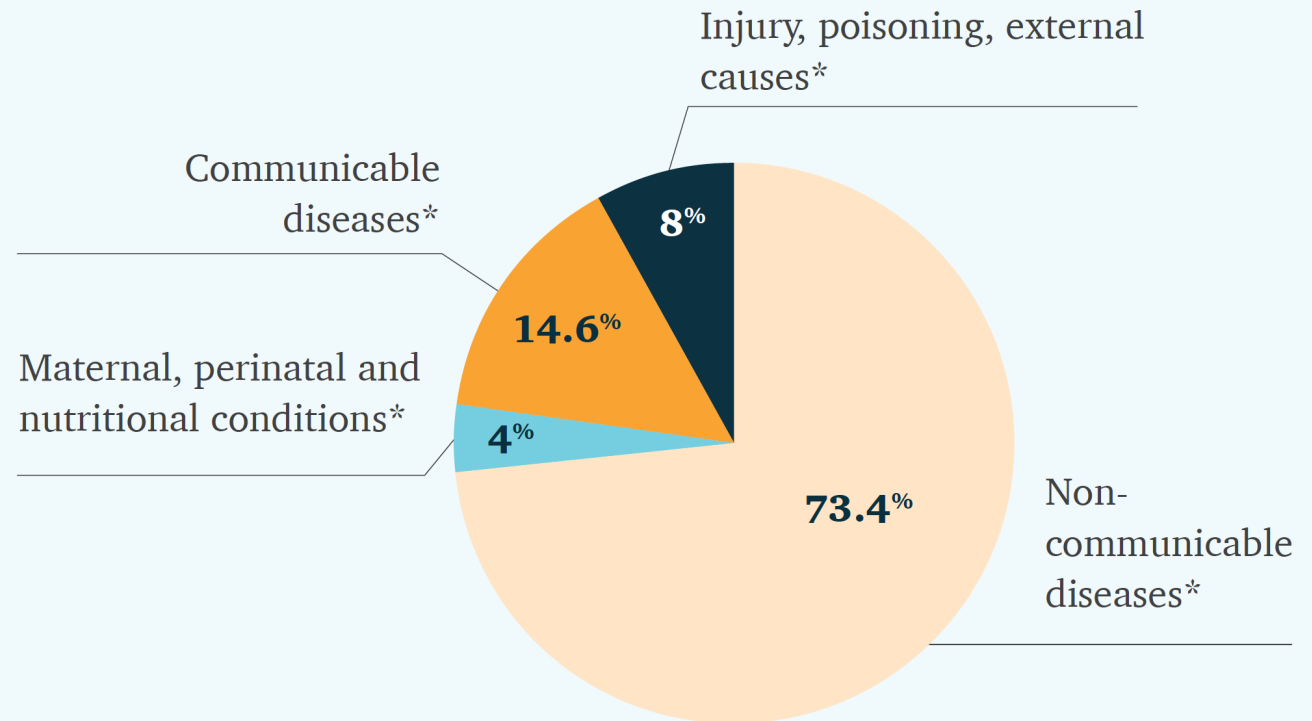
# Global Atlas of Palliative Care

2nd Edition



# Death Worldwide

**Figure 1**  
**Distribution of major causes of death worldwide for all ages, males and females (2017)\***



\*Based on data for 354 diseases and injuries and 3484 sequelae

55,945,730 deaths from 195 reporting countries worldwide



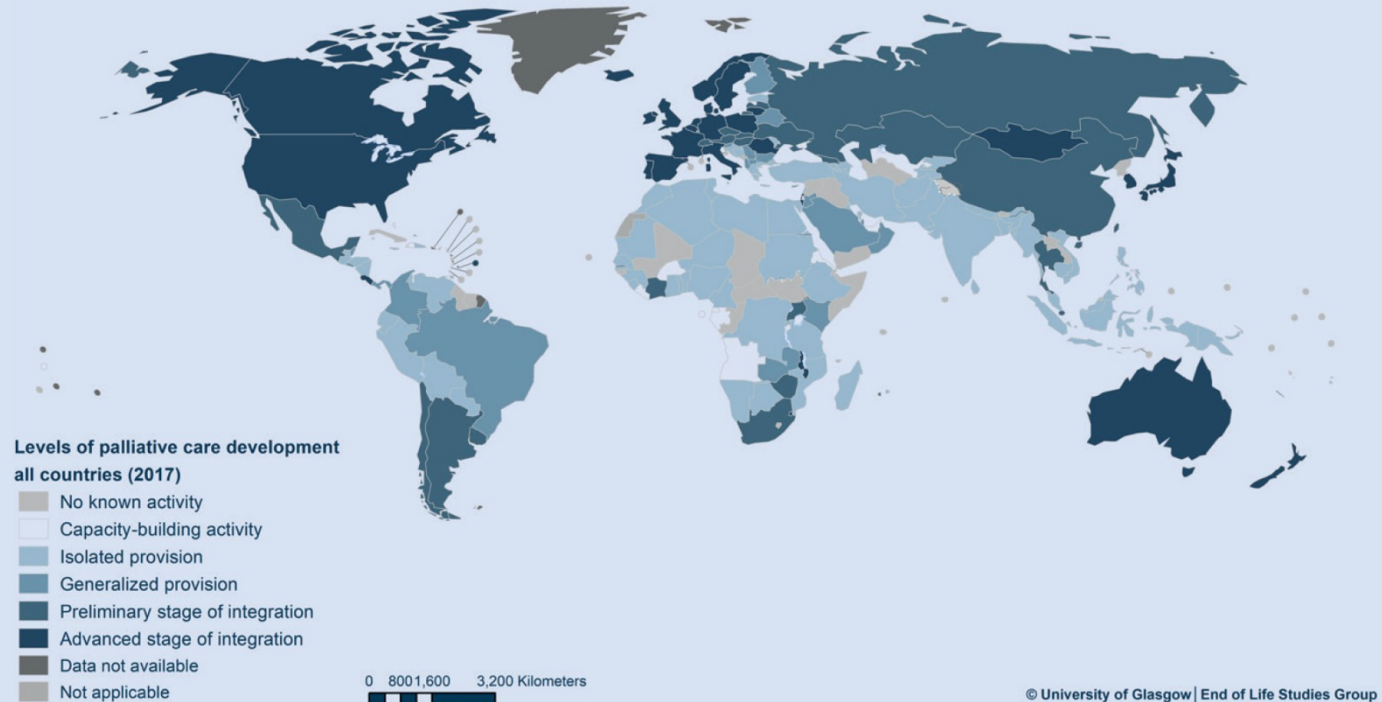
## Top Ten Leading Causes Of Death In The World

Rank	Cause	Number of Deaths
1	Ischaemic heart disease	8,756,006
2	Stroke	6,240,611
3	Lower respiratory infections	3,190,350
4	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	3,170,429
5	Trachea, bronchus, lung cancers	1,694,623
6	Diabetes mellitus	1,585,530
7	Alzheimer disease and other dementias	1,541,880
8	Diarrheal diseases	1,388,629
9	Tuberculosis	1,373,159
10	Road injury	1,342,265

# 64% of countries no or limited PC delivery; only 15% good integration

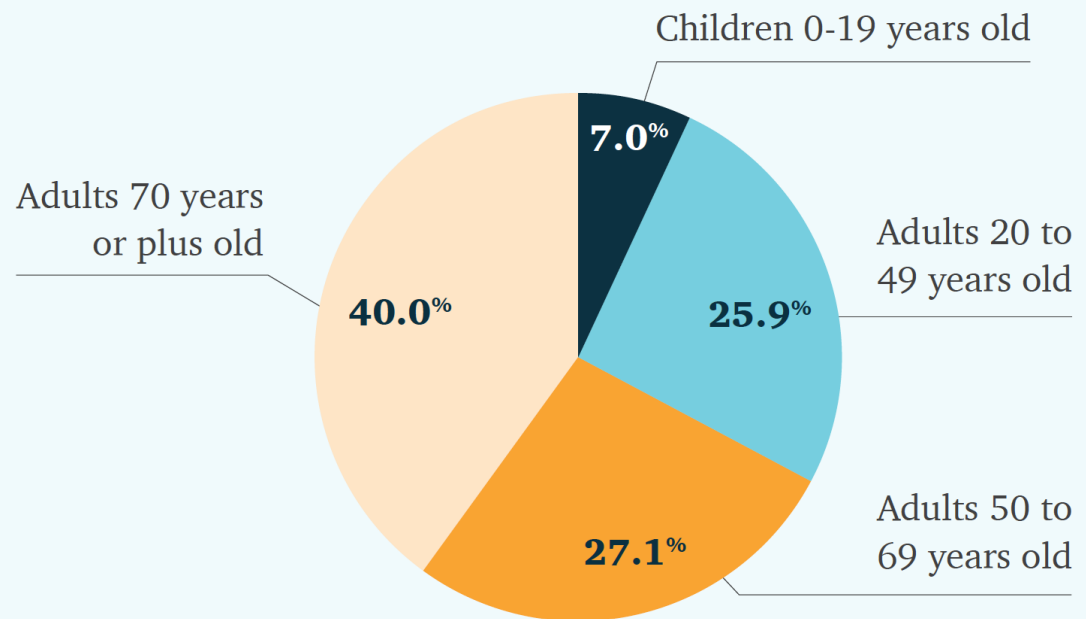
**Figure 38**

**Levels of palliative care development – all countries (2017)**



# 67% 50+ years / 7% children

**Figure 3**  
Worldwide need for  
palliative care by age  
group (2017)

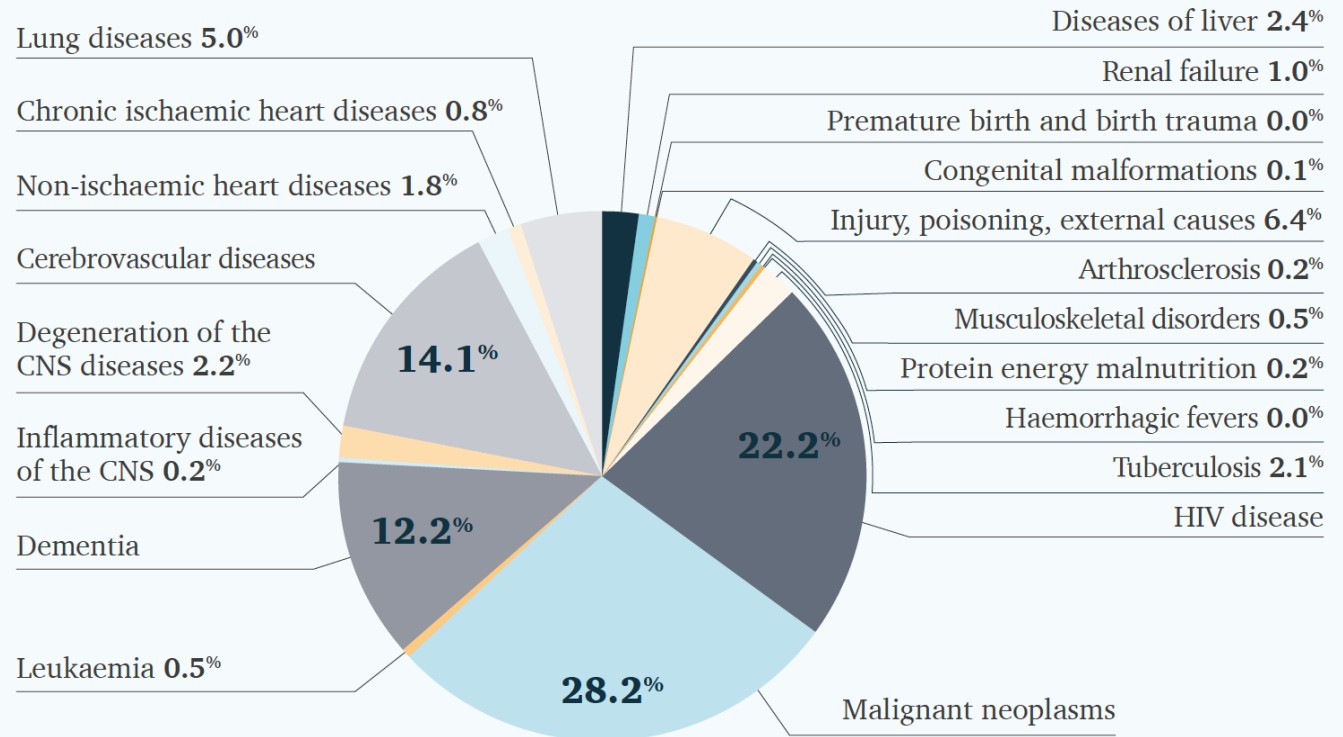


N = 56,840,123 people

# 20 Disease Groups Needing PC

**Figure 5**  
Worldwide need for  
palliative care for  
adults by disease  
groups (20+ years  
2017)

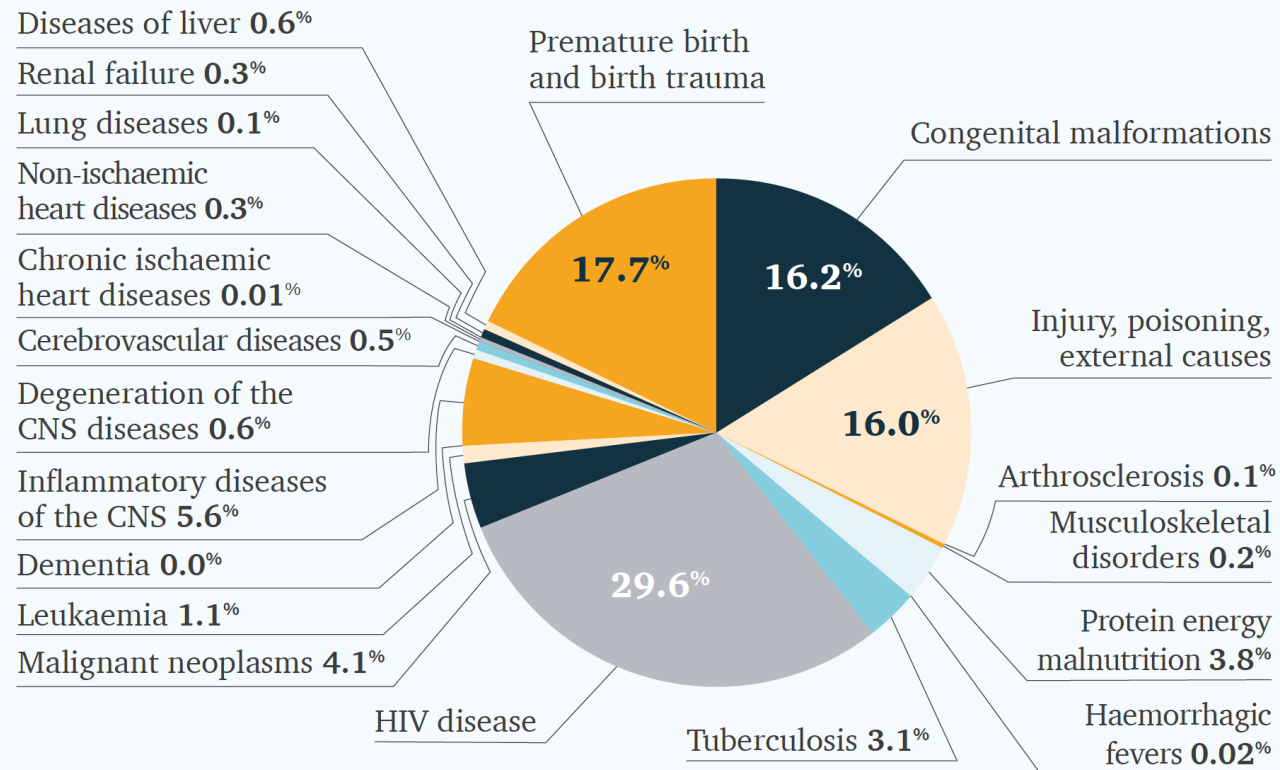
N = 52,883,093 adults



# 20 Childhood Disease Conditions

**Figure 18**  
Worldwide need for  
palliative care for  
children by disease  
groups (0-19 years;  
2017)

N = 3,957,030 children

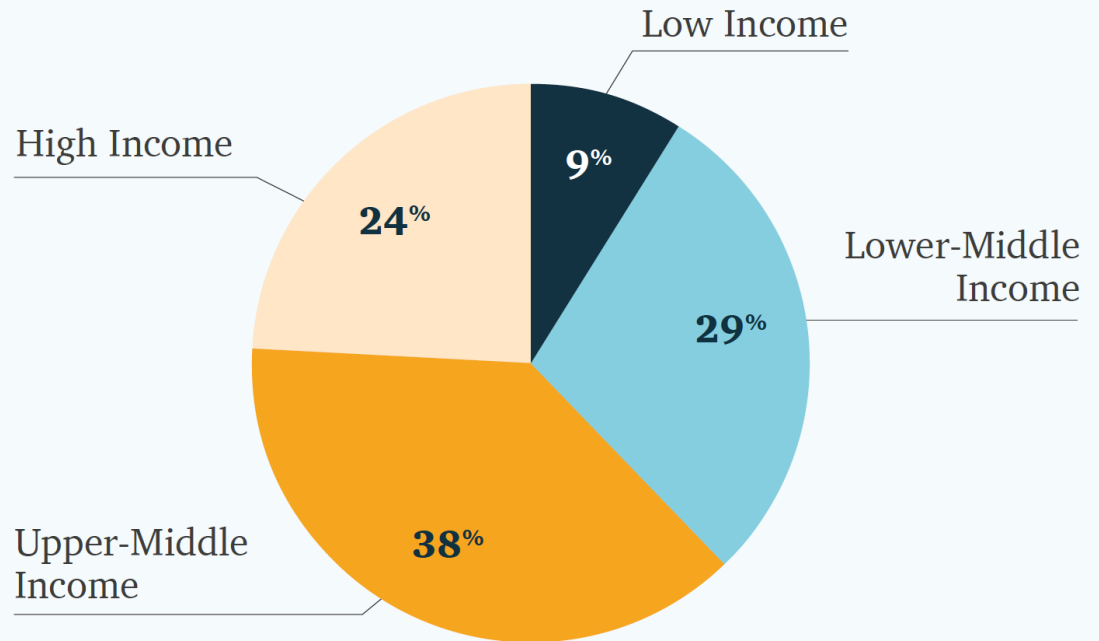


# PC Need by Income Group

**Figure 10**

Worldwide need for palliative care for adults by World Bank income category (20+ years; 2017)

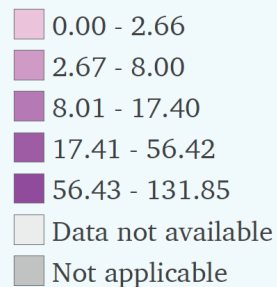
N = 52,883,093 adults



Over 75% of need is in LMICs  
Only ~30% of services in LMICs

7 million receiving PC – only 12% of need for PC met - from 25,000 PC services

**Figure 40**  
**Services/providers to**  
**base population (per**  
**1M population) 2017**



Rates of number of services delivering Palliative Care  
Number of services (per '000'000 pop.)

Up from 16,000 services caring for 3 million patients in 2011





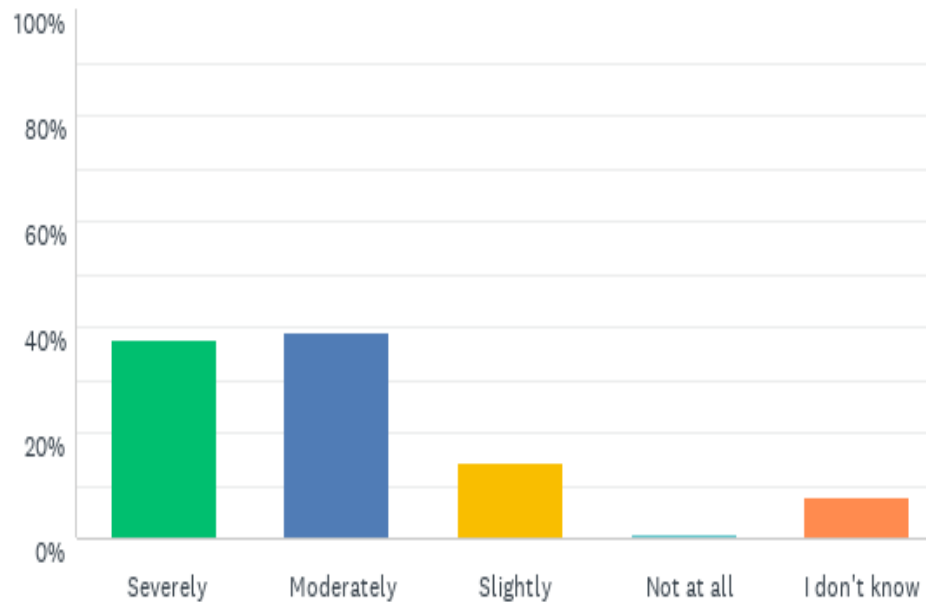
- 90 responses
- 40 countries

# Palliative care, COVID-19 and Universal Health Coverage

December 2020





# Over $\frac{3}{4}$ have mod-severe disruption

Q5 To what extent has COVID-19 disrupted the delivery of essential palliative care services to adults and children with pre-existing palliative care needs in your country (e.g. Not COVID19 patients)



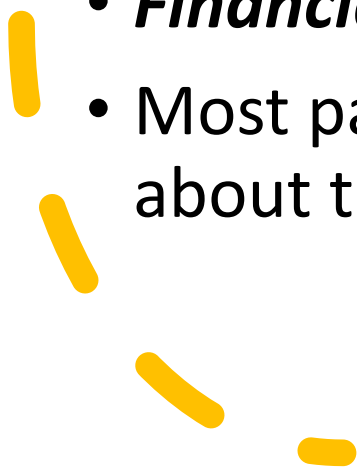


# Key Findings

- ***ACCESS TO PALLIATIVE CARE***
  - Palliative care services for adults and children with pre-existing palliative care needs are being disrupted
  - People with COVID-19 are not getting the palliative care they need
  - Vulnerable groups, including migrants and refugees, may be particularly at risk of not accessing palliative care.
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# Key Findings

- ***Government Integration***
  - Governments are not integrating palliative care into the COVID-19 response
  - Most governments are not financing palliative care as part of their COVID-19 response
  - ***Financial Sustainability of PC***
  - Most palliative care organisations are concerned about their financial sustainability
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# Key Findings

- ***Universal Health Coverage and PC***
  - Only half of respondents reported that palliative care was part of their country's Universal Health Coverage scheme
  - ***Partnerships for PC***
  - Organisations whose primary focus is not palliative care (e.g. older people groups, health care professionals' organisations) have been supporting the integration of palliative care in the response
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# COVID-19 Dual Edged Sword

- PC Units Closed
- PC Professionals reassigned to COVID work
- Funding for PC diverted
- Huge rise in complicated bereavement

BUT

- PC most requested specialty/consult
  - Value of PC seen and rising
  - PC included in UN/WHO policies on COVID & health emergencies
  - Bi-directional learning
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# COVID Impact on Bereavement

- Restrictions on
  - Visitation (no involvement in caregiving, social distancing)
  - Communication (saying goodbye, unfinished business, meaningful interaction)
  - Preparation of the body for burial
  - Inability to hold funerals/memorials
  - Ability to see counselors/therapists
- Ambivalence about virtual communication



Recommendations  
on EOL &  
Bereavement Care  
for Clinicians and  
Government Policy  
Makers

World Hospice &  
Palliative Care Day  
Key Messages

Policy  
recommendations

THEME & KEY MESSAGE  
RECOMMENDATIONS



# World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2022

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THEME  
RECOMMENDATION

# Healing Hearts and Communities

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WORLD HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE DAY  
OCTOBER 8, 2022

# Key Messages



The experience of grief and the need to heal unites humans worldwide.

## HEALING HEARTS AND COMMUNITIES

WORLD HOSPICE AND  
PALLIATIVE CARE DAY

OCTOBER 8, 2022

[thewhpca.org](http://thewhpca.org)



# Key Messages



Global events have resulted in an increased burden of grief among families and healthcare providers.

## HEALING HEARTS AND COMMUNITIES

WORLD HOSPICE AND  
PALLIATIVE CARE DAY

OCTOBER 8, 2022

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# Key Messages



Fostering a healthy grief experience is essential to resilience, building wellness and improving health inequities in communities.

## HEALING HEARTS AND COMMUNITIES

WORLD HOSPICE AND  
PALLIATIVE CARE DAY

OCTOBER 8, 2022

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# Key Messages



Community-based bereavement support is the foundation of a compassionate community.

Investment in professional and community services to support grief and healing are critical.

## HEALING HEARTS AND COMMUNITIES

WORLD HOSPICE AND  
PALLIATIVE CARE DAY

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# Strategy



## GOOD GRIEF

Sharing experiences and innovations from compassionate communities around the world that honours, and brings healing and hope.

WHPCA World Day will include Good Grief, a global collection of stories and profiles of successful grief support programs and memorialization initiatives.

### HEALING HEARTS AND COMMUNITIES

WORLD HOSPICE AND  
PALLIATIVE CARE DAY

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Healing Hearts and Communities

WHPCD 2022

## Summary: Theme & Key message recommendations



### **HEALING HEARTS AND COMMUNITIES**

WORLD HOSPICE AND  
PALLIATIVE CARE DAY  
OCTOBER 8, 2022  
[thewhpca.org](http://thewhpca.org)



The experience of grief and the need to heal unites humans worldwide.

Global events have resulted in an increased burden of grief among families and healthcare providers.

Fostering a healthy grief experience is essential to resilience, building wellness and improving health inequities in communities.

Community-based bereavement support is the foundation of a compassionate community.

Investment in professional and community services to support grief and healing are critical.



Joseph

# Policy Recommendations

- National strategies for bereaved citizens including:
  - Primary, secondary, and tertiary education and support
    - Primary education campaign for public about grief (national day, media awareness resource sharing)
    - Secondary support for the bereaved including
      - Social support, group support, individual counseling
    - Tertiary support for prolonged grief disorder, humanitarian emergencies & disasters
  - Compassionate Communities
    - Workplace support
      - Flexible leave policies, education programs for employees
    - Community engagement and involvement in support for bereaved
    - Increased access to hospice and palliative care programs/services

# Summary



Thank you!

**For questions about this presentation contact me at  
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