



Hospice Facts and Figures

From the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

Characteristics of U.S. hospice programs

3,300* estimated operational hospice programs in 2003 in the U.S.

**Includes both primary and multiple locations for individual hospices*

- 67% of hospices were non-profit
- 29% of hospices were for-profit entities
- 4% of hospices were run by the government
- 94.7% of hospices were Medicare certified
- 64% of all hospices were accredited

Characteristics of Patients Served by Hospice

950,000 estimated patients served by hospice programs in 2003.

- 54% of hospice patients were female
- 46% of hospice patients were male
- 63% were 75 years of age or older
- 81.2% of hospice patients were White or Caucasian*
- *Does not include Hispanic or Latino whites*
- 9% of hospice patients were Black or African American
- 4.3% of hospice patients were Hispanic or Latino
- 0.9% of hospice patients were Asian or Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 4.6% of hospice patients were classified as multiracial or “Another Race”

Locations of death

In 2003, for all Americans who died:

- About 25% died at home
- About 25% died in a nursing facility
- About 50% died at a hospital
 - 15% in the emergency room and
 - 35% in acute care

For those patients who died under **hospice care**:

- 50% died at home
- 23% died in a nursing facility
- 7% died in a hospice unit
- 9% died in a hospital
- 7% died in a free-standing inpatient facility operated entirely by the hospice
- 4% died in a residential care setting

Diagnosis

Cancer diagnoses accounted for **49%** of hospice admissions in 2003.

The top five non-cancerous causes of death in hospice include:

Top 5 Non-cancerous Diagnoses	2003
End-stage heart disease	11.0%
Dementia	9.6%
Lung disease	6.8%
End-stage kidney disease	2.8%
End-stage liver disease	1.6%

Length of Service

- In 2003, 36.9% of those served by hospice died in seven days or less
- 7.3% of those served by hospice died in 180 days or more
- The average length of service (ALOS) was 55 days
- The median length of service (MLOS) was 22 days*

**MLOS is a more accurate way to understand the experiences of typical hospice patients.*

Changes in length of service over time:

	1992	1995	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
ALOS	64 days	61.5 days	51.3 days	48 days	48 days	48 days	50.6 days	55 days
MLOS	NA	29 days	25 days	24 days	25 days	20.5 days	20.9 days	22 days

Level of care

Based on percentage of patient days in hospice care

Levels of Care	2003
Routine Home Care	95.5%
General Inpatient Care	3.4%
Respite Care	0.2%
Continuous Care	0.9%

Amount of care received by hospice patients

- In 2003 there were an average of:
 - 39.2 staff visits per admission
 - 1.4 days between visits
 - 4.9 visits per week from hospice workers
- Volunteer Commitment: Approximately 400,000 hospice volunteers contribute 10% of all hours provided to hospices. This is equal to over 18 million hours per year.
- Bereavement Support: On average, about two family members served per death and each receives two to three contacts; 21% of individuals served are community members who did not receive hospice care.