

README	Important contextual information to assist with interpreting the information provided in this web report
Death data context	Western Australia death data, predictable deaths, proportion of predictable deaths captured in PCOC and specialist palliative care, 2017
Table 1	Severe symptoms at beginning of episode of care and just prior to death, Western Australia, 2018
Table 2	Patient's preferred language, Western Australia, 2018
Table 3	Country of birth of palliative care patients, Western Australia, 2018
Table 4	Cancer and non-cancer diagnosis reported in PCOC, Western Australia, 2018
Table 5	Palliative care patients by remoteness, Western Australia, 2018
Table 6	Palliative care patients, by Indigenous status, Western Australia, 2018
Table 7	Palliative care episodes by socioeconomic status, Western Australia, 2018
Table 8	Palliative care episodes by age group and setting, Western Australia, 2018
Table 9	Palliative care episodes by sex and setting, Western Australia, 2018
Table 10	Palliative care episodes by age group and Indigenous status, Western Australia, 2018
Table 11	Summary of patient outcomes and benchmarks by palliative care setting, Western Australia, 2018
Citation	Suggested citation details



The Australian Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC) is a national palliative care outcomes and benchmarking program. PCOC's primary objective is to systematically improve patient outcomes (including pain and symptom control).

Central to the program is a framework and protocol for routine clinical assessment and response. This works in parallel with a routine point-of-care data collection, capturing clinically meaningful information. PCOC aims to drive improvement in patient outcomes through feedback to individual services and by facilitating service-to-service benchmarking.

Three types of information are presented in this web report: patient-level, episode-level and phase-level information[#]. This web report includes data for the period of 2017 and 2018. The information reported here includes data from participating services during the stated time periods. The report represents a substantial proportion of palliative care provision within Western Australia.

For more information regarding the data included in this report, please contact us at pcoc@uow.edu.au

Western Australian services, patients, episodes of care, and phases, 2018[#]

	N
Services	15
Patients	6,716
Episodes of care[#]	8,793
<i>Hospital / hospice episodes</i>	<i>2,787</i>
<i>Community episodes</i>	<i>6,006</i>
Phases	25,906
<i>Hospital / hospice phases</i>	<i>5,878</i>
<i>Community phases</i>	<i>20,028</i>

Number of phases by palliative care phase type and setting, 2018[#]

Palliative care phase	Hospital / hospice		Community		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Stable	1,362	23.2	7,772	38.8	9,134	35.3
Unstable	831	14.1	842	4.2	1,673	6.5
Deteriorating	2,371	40.3	9,694	48.4	12,065	46.6
Terminal	1,314	22.4	1,720	8.6	3,034	11.7
Total	5,878	100.0	20,028	100.0	25,906	100.0

[#] PCOC defines a patient as a person for whom a palliative care service accepts responsibility for assessment and / or treatment as evidenced by the existence of a medical record. Family and carers are included in this definition if interventions relating to them are recorded in the patient medical record. An episode of care is a period of contact between a patient and a palliative care service that is provided by one palliative care service and occurs in one setting – for the purposes of this report, either as a hospital / hospice or community patient. The palliative care phase type describes the stage of the patient's illness and provides a clinical indication of the level of care a patient requires. Patients may have more than one episode of care, and phase.

14,676 people died in Western Australia in 2017. Of these, 3,052 deaths (20.8%) were captured in the PCOC data collection. Of all deaths in Western Australia, 8,784 (59.9%) could be considered potentially predictable. The PCOC deaths represented 20.8% of all deaths in Western Australia, 34.7% of all deaths considered predictable, and 60.6% of deaths from causes typically seen by specialist palliative care. Population-based estimates indicate that in high-income countries, 69%–82% of those who die need palliative care.

Western Australia death data, predictable deaths, proportion of predictable deaths captured in PCOC and specialist palliative care, 2017

Summary	2017
Western Australia deaths	14,676
Potentially predictable	8,784
Potentially specialist palliative care	5,035
Deaths in hospital#	7,208
Deaths recorded in PCOC	3,052
Western Australia deaths	100.0%
Potentially predictable	59.9%
Potentially specialist palliative care	34.3%
Deaths in hospital	49.1%
Deaths recorded in PCOC as % of total	20.8%
Deaths recorded in PCOC as % of potentially predictable	34.7%
Deaths recorded in PCOC as % of potentially specialist palliative care	60.6%

Sources:

Rosenwax, L.K., McNamara, B., Blackmore, A.M. & Holman, C.D.J. 2005, 'Estimating the size of a potential palliative care population', *Palliative Medicine*, vol. 19, no. 7, pp. 556–62.

Murtagh, F.E.M., Bausewein, C., Verne, J., Iris Groeneveld, E., Kaloki, Y.E. & Higginson, I.J. 2014, 'How many people need palliative care? A study developing and comparing methods for population-based estimates', *Palliative Medicine*, vol. 28, no. 1, pp. 49–58.

Australian Bureau of Statistics. *Causes of Death, Australia, 2017*. Cat. No. 3303.0

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2018. *Admitted patient care 2016–17: Australian hospital*

PLEASE NOTE: Deaths in hospital corresponds to the 2016-17 financial year



Table 1 Severe symptoms at beginning of episode-of-care and just before death, Western Australia, 2018

	All palliative care			Hospital / hospice			Community		
	N	Beginning	Just before death	N	Beginning	Just before death	N	Beginning	Just before death
Fatigue	1,901	3.8%	2.2%	874	5.8%	1.4%	1,027	2.0%	2.8%
Pain	1,905	2.8%	0.9%	874	4.3%	0.3%	1,031	1.5%	1.4%
Appetite	1,900	1.6%	0.5%	874	2.7%	0.2%	1,026	0.6%	0.7%
Breathing	1,903	2.2%	1.6%	873	4.4%	1.0%	1,030	0.4%	2.0%
Bowel problems	1,904	1.4%	0.1%	874	2.4%	0.1%	1,030	0.6%	0.0%
Insomnia	1,898	1.1%	0.6%	873	2.2%	0.3%	1,025	0.2%	0.9%
Nausea	1,901	1.1%	0.2%	873	2.2%	0.0%	1,028	0.2%	0.4%

The assessment framework incorporates five validated clinical assessment tools: Palliative Care Phase; Palliative Care Problem Severity Score (PCPSS); Symptom Assessment Scale (SAS); Australia-modified Karnofsky Performance Status (AKPS) scale and Resource Utilisation Groups – Activities of Daily Living (RUG-ADL).

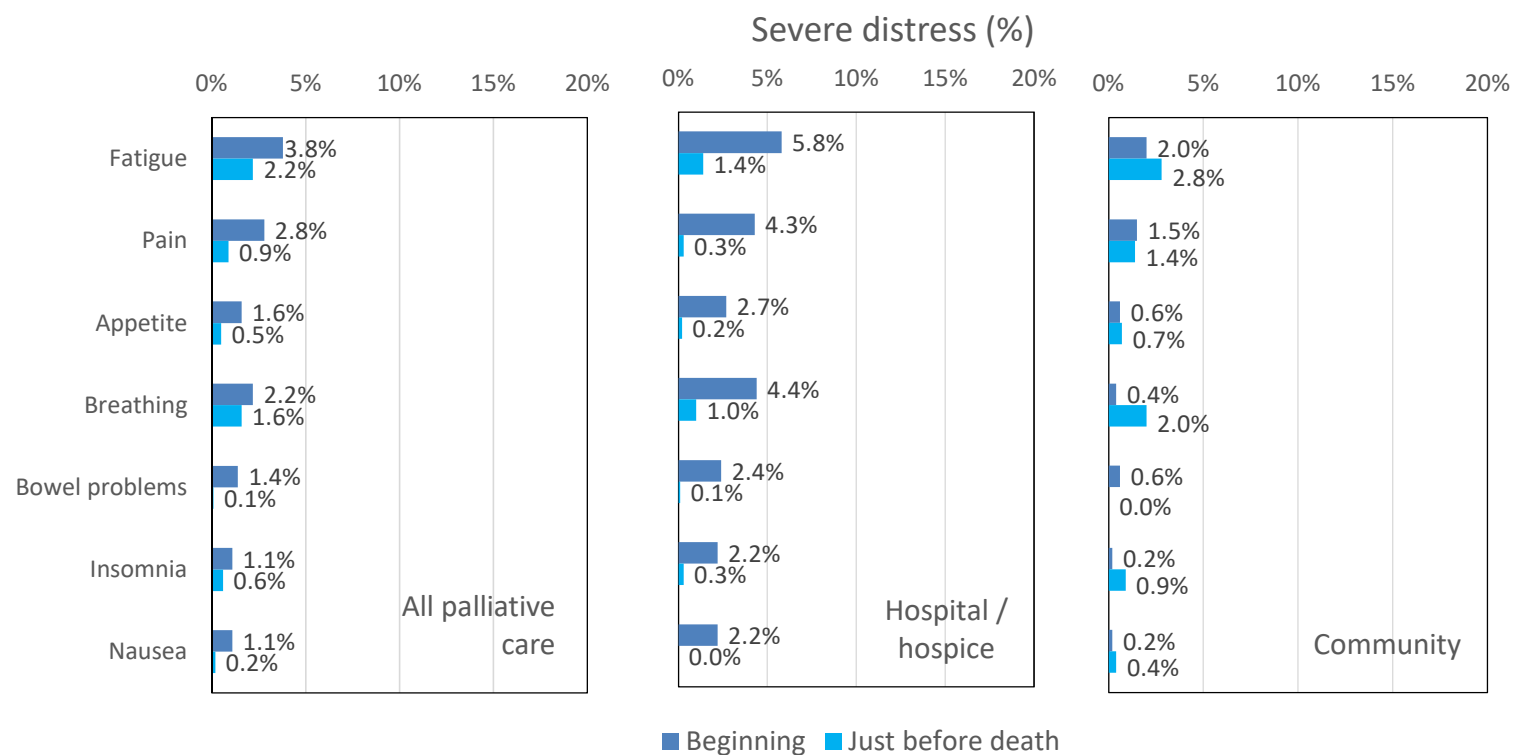


Table 2 Patient's preferred language, Western Australia, 2018

Language	Palliative care patients	
	N	%
English	6,315	95.3
All other languages	313	4.7
Total	6,628	100.0

Table 3 Country of birth of palliative care patients, Western Australia, 2018

Country of birth	Palliative care patients	
	N	%
Australia	3,823	58.2
England	953	14.5
Italy	261	4.0
Scotland	132	2.0
All other countries	1,400	21.3
Total	6,569	100.0

Table 4 Cancer and non-cancer diagnosis reported in PCOC, Western Australia, 2018

Diagnosis	Palliative care patients	
	N	%
Cancer	4,242	63.2
Non-cancer	2,466	36.8
Total	6,708	100.0

[Back to List of tables](#)

Table 5 Palliative care patients by remoteness, Western Australia, 2018

	Patients receiving care in hospital / hospice		Patients receiving care in the community		Total patients	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Remoteness						
Major cities	1,617	70.1	4,305	97.8	5,922	67.9
Inner regional	305	13.2	97	2.2	378	15.1
Outer regional, remote and very remote#	385	16.7	1	0.0	386	17.0
Total	2,307	100.0	4,403	100.0	6,686	100.0

These cells have been combined due to small numbers in the remote and very remote categories.

Note: If a patient receives care in more than one setting, they are only presented once in the 'Total patients' column.

Remoteness classification reference: <https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/remoteness+structure>



Table 6 Palliative care patients, by Indigenous status, Western Australia, 2018

Indigenous status	N	%
Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander	107	1.6
Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander	6,420	98.4
Total	6,527	100.0

Table 7 Palliative care episodes by socioeconomic status, Western Australia, 2018

IRSAD quintile	Hospital / hospice		Community		Total		Western Australia population#
	N	%	N	%	N	%	%
1 (Lowest)	148	5.3	379	6.3	527	6.0	13.3
2	692	25.0	1,069	17.9	1,761	20.1	18.4
3	754	27.2	1,016	17.0	1,770	20.2	22.9
4	523	18.9	1,366	22.8	1,889	21.6	24.0
5 (Highest)	655	23.6	2,158	36.0	2,813	32.1	21.4
Total	2,722	100.0	5,988	100.0	8,760	100.0	100.0

Western Australia population information obtained from <https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/by%20Subject/2071.0~2016~Main%20Features~Socio-Economic%20Advantage%20and%20Disadvantage~123>



Table 8 Palliative care episodes by age group and setting, Western Australia, 2018

	Hospital / hospice		Community		Total Western Australia	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Age group (years)						
< 25	11	0.4	28	1	39	0.4
25-64	622	22.3	1,349	23	1,971	22.4
65-84	1,457	52.3	2,909	48	4,366	49.7
85+	697	25.0	1,720	29	2,417	27.5
Total	2,787	100.0	6,006	100.0	8,793	100.0
Average age	74.0	-	74.0	-	74.5	-
Median age	76.0	-	77.0	-	76.0	-

Table 9 Palliative care episodes by sex and setting, Western Australia, 2018

Sex	Hospital / hospice		Community		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	1,567	56.2	3,053	50.8	4,620	52.5
Female	1,220	43.8	2,953	49.2	4,173	47.5
Total	2,787	100.0	6,006	100.0	8,793	100.0

Table 10 Palliative care episodes by age group and Indigenous status, Western Australia, 2018

	Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander		Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander nor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	
	N	%	N	%
Age group (years)				
< 50	25	16.0	395	4.7
50 +	131	84.0	7,976	95.3
Total	156	100.0	8,371	100.0
Average age	62.2	-	75.0	-
Median age	61.5	-	77.0	-

Table 11 Summary of patient outcomes and benchmarks, by setting of palliative care, Western Australia, 2018

Outcome measure	Benchmark	All Western Australia services	Hospital / hospice setting	Community setting	
Timeliness of care					
Patients commencing an episode of palliative care on the day of, or the day following, the date they were ready for care	90%	99.4%	98.4%	99.9%	
Responding to urgent needs					
Patients in the unstable phase for three days or less	90%	95.4%	94.3%	96.4%	
Anticipatory care					
<i>Patients with absent/mild at the beginning of a phase remaining absent/mild when the phase ends</i>					
Clinician rated	90%	Pain	88.1%	93.7%	86.6%
		Family / carer problems	87.0%	94.3%	85.5%
Patient rated	90%	Pain	86.4%	92.4%	85.0%
		Fatigue	79.5%	93.2%	75.2%
		Breathing problems	93.5%	96.6%	92.7%
Responsive care					
<i>Patients with moderate/severe at the beginning of a phase becoming absent/mild when the phase ends</i>					
Clinician rated	60%	Pain	73.5%	65.5%	75.9%
		Family / carer problems	68.4%	56.0%	71.1%
Patient rated	60%	Pain	64.6%	57.8%	67.4%
		Fatigue	43.1%	53.6%	41.1%
		Breathing problems	51.8%	60.0%	49.1%

SUGGESTED CITATION:

Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (20 September 2019) Palliative care services at a glance in Western Australia, Web Report. Australian Health Services Research Institute, University of Wollongong

The Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC) is a national palliative care project funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

Version number	Date of change	Staff involved	Change made
1.0	20/09/2019	Samuel Allingham	Version 1.0 of document made public