

Living Well At the End of Life: A National Conversation

LIVING WELL AT THE END OF LIFE POLL TOPLINE

National Sample of 1000 ADULTS AGE 18+

(Margin of Error = +/-3.1% in 95 out of 100 cases)

Interviews Conducted via Telephone February 16-17&19, 2011

- A1. Now, generally speaking, how would you rate the overall performance of the health care system in this country? Please respond using a 0-10 scale, where 0 means it does a poor job and 10 means it does an excellent job. Of course, you can use any number in between.

36%	7-10
41%	4-6
21%	0-3
5%	10
5%	9
12%	8
15%	7
15%	6
19%	5
8%	4
8%	3
5%	2
2%	1
5.5	MEAN

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Now, I'd like to read you a list of some different terms related to health care and, for each one, please tell me how familiar you are with that term. The (first/next) term is...(RANDOMIZED)

	VERY FAMILIAR	SMWT FAMILIAR	NOT TOO FAMILIAR	NOT AT ALL FAMILIAR	DK	REF
1. Palliative Care	12%	12%	10%	61%	5%	*
	24%			71%		
2. End-of-Life Care	33%	31%	11%	22%	2%	*
	65%			33%		
3. Hospice Care	55%	31%	5%	8%	1%	--
	86%			13%		

Now, thinking about these same issues, how important is it that each of the following be a top priority for the health care system in this country? The (first/next) term is...(RANDOMIZED)

	VERY IMPORTANT	SMWT IMPORTANT	NOT TOO IMPORTANT	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	DK	REF
4. Palliative Care	21%	23%	5%	4%	46%	1%
	44%			9%		
5. End-of-Life Care	56%	29%	3%	3%	8%	*
	86%			6%		
6. Hospice Care	64%	27%	3%	1%	5%	*
	91%			3%		



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7. Which of these statements more closely reflects your beliefs? **(ROTATED)**

71% It is more important to enhance the quality of life for seriously ill patients, even if it means a shorter life.

...OR...

23% It is more important to extend the life of seriously ill patients through every medical intervention possible.

3% DON'T KNOW

3% REFUSED

8. And, which of the following statements do you agree with more? **(ROTATED)**

37% The health care system spends far much trying to extend the lives of seriously ill patients which diverts resources from other priorities, adds to our country's financial difficulties, and increases the cost of health care for everyone.

...OR...

55% The health care system in this country has the responsibility, the medical technology, and the expertise to offer treatments to seriously ill patients and spend whatever it takes to extend their lives.

5% DON'T KNOW

3% REFUSED

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(ROTATED SERIES Q9-Q12 & SERIES Q13-Q16)

And, how would you rate the job the health care system in this country does on each of the following issues? Please respond using a 0-10 scale, where 0 means it does a poor job and 10 means it does an excellent job. Of course, you can use any number in between. The (first/next) one is...(RANDOMIZED)

	7-10	4-6	0-3	DK/REF	MEAN
9. Reducing pain and suffering and improving the quality of life for seriously ill patients	56%	33%	9%	1%	6.7
10. Giving patients and their families control over treatment options	55%	32%	11%	2%	6.6
11. Easing the grieving process for family members	40%	40%	16%	4%	5.8
12. Avoiding costly and drawn-out treatments that have very low chance of success	28%	45%	25%	3%	5.0

And, how concerned are you, personally, about the following issues? Please respond using a 0-10 scale, where 0 means it does not concern you at all and 10 means it concerns you a great deal. Of course, you can use any number in between. The (first/next) one is...(RANDOMIZED)

	7-10	4-6	0-3	DK/REF	MEAN
13. The cost of treatment if you or a family member become seriously ill	79%	13%	7%	*	8.1
14. Not having adequate information about treatment options if you or a family member become seriously ill	73%	16%	11%	1%	7.6
15. Burdening your family and friends if you or a family member become seriously ill	72%	18%	9%	1%	7.6
16. Not being emotionally or spiritually prepared for death and dying	48%	25%	26%	1%	6.0



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Now, I'd like to read you some more information about some of the terms I mentioned earlier.

Palliative care describes any kind of care or treatment for seriously ill patients which focuses on reducing the severity of symptoms rather than attempting to reverse progression of the illness or provide a cure. The goal of palliative care is to provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support to patients and also their families. Palliative care can be provided alongside of curative treatment and is commonly provided at home, at a hospital, or at a nursing home.

An important part of palliative care is end-of-life care, which focuses specifically on advanced planning for patients approaching death. This includes discussing their preferred treatment options and reducing their pain and suffering. Palliative care also includes hospice care which focuses on providing comfort, rather than attempting to cure patients in their final stage of life.

17. Now that you've heard some more information, how important is it that these health and life issues be a top priority for the health care system in this country? Is it...**(ROTATED TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

96% TOTAL IMPORTANT
4% TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT

72% VERY IMPORTANT
24% SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT

2% NOT VERY IMPORTANT
1% NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT

* DON'T KNOW
* REFUSED

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Still thinking about these health and life issues, including palliative care and end-of-life care...

How much have you seen, read or heard about these issues from the following sources? Please respond using a 0-10 scale, where 0 means you have seen, read or heard nothing at all from that source and 10 means you have seen, read or heard a great deal. Of course, you can use any number in between. The (first/next) one is...(RANDOMIZED)

	7-10	4-6	0-3	DK/REF	MEAN
18. Your doctor or health care provider	31%	23%	45%	1%	4.1
19. Your health insurance company	21%	20%	57%	1%	3.3
20. Religious leaders at your church or place of worship	25%	19%	54%	2%	3.5
21. Elected officials and political candidates	20%	26%	54%	1%	3.5
22. The news media	32%	31%	36%	1%	4.7
23. Family members and friends	49%	26%	24%	*	5.8
24. Social service agencies and programs	22%	21%	56%	1%	3.3

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And, how much do you trust the following sources to provide information about these issues? Please respond using a 0-10 scale, where 0 means you don't trust that source at all, and 10 means you trust that source a great deal. Of course, you can use any number in between. The (first/next) one is...(RANDOMIZED)

	7-10	4-6	0-3	DK/REF	MEAN
25. Your doctor or health care provider	76%	16%	7%	1%	7.6
26. Your health insurance company	35%	33%	31%	1%	5.1
27. Religious leaders at your church or place of worship	46%	26%	25%	3%	5.7
28. Elected officials and political candidates	9%	24%	67%	1%	2.6
29. The news media	17%	40%	42%	1%	3.9
30. Family members and friends	69%	22%	8%	1%	7.4
31. Social service agencies and programs	39%	37%	22%	2%	5.4



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32. Thinking specifically about your own experience with these health and life issues... How much have you thought about these issues as they relate to health and life decisions for you and your family? Would you say... **(ROTATED TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

81% TOTAL A GREAT DEAL/SOME
18% TOTAL NOT TOO MUCH/NOT AT ALL

46% A GREAT DEAL
35% ONLY SOME

13% NOT TOO MUCH
6% NOT AT ALL

* DON'T KNOW
* REFUSED

33. Have you, personally, had experience with palliative care, end-of-life care, or hospice care either for yourself or a family member?

63% YES
37% NO
* DON'T KNOW
* REFUSED

34. **(Asked only of Respondents who replied Yes to Q34, n = 626, MoE = +/- 3.9%)**
And, thinking back to before your experience with these issues, generally speaking would you say you were prepared or unprepared for that experience?

(IF PREPARED/UNPREPARED, ASKED: Were you VERY prepared/unprepared or just SOMEWHAT prepared/unprepared?)?

50% TOTAL PREPARED
49% TOTAL UNPREPARED

24% VERY PREPARED
26% SOMEWHAT PREPARED

30% SOMEWHAT UNPREPARED
19% VERY UNPREPARED

* DON'T KNOW
-- REFUSED

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35. Now, still thinking about these health and life issues, including palliative care and end-of-life care...**(ROTATED)**

(Some/Other) people say that given this country's aging population and the increasing amount of public funds spent on health care, there should be more of an open debate about public policies regarding palliative care and end-of-life care.

(Other/Some) people say that even though public funds are spent on these issues, an open debate about public policies regarding palliative care and end-of-life care could interfere with personal decisions between families and doctors.

How about you? Do you believe there should be more of an open debate about public policies regarding these health and life issues?

(IF YES/NO, ASKED: Do you feel STRONGLY or NOT-SO-STRONGLY about that?)

78% TOTAL YES

19% TOTAL NO

62% STRONGLY YES

16% NOT-SO-STRONGLY YES

7% NOT-SO-STRONGLY NO

13% STRONGLY NO

2% DON'T KNOW

1% REFUSED

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Now, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding these health and life issues. The (first/next) one is... **(RANDOMIZED)**

(IF AGREE/DISAGREE, ASKED: Do you STRONGLY agree/disagree or just SOMEWHAT agree/disagree with that statement?)

	STR AGREE	SMWT AGREE	SMWT DISAGREE	STR DISAGREE	DK	REF
36. It is important that patients and their families be educated about palliative care and end-of-life care options available to them along with curative treatment.	79%	18%	2%	1%	*	*
	97%			3%		
37A. Discussions about palliative care and end-of-life care treatment options should be fully covered by health insurance. (SAMPLE A, n = 508, MoE = +/- 4.4%)	63%	24%	6%	5%	2%	1%
	86%			11%		
37B. Discussions about palliative care and end-of-life care treatment options should be fully covered by Medicare. (SAMPLE B, n = 492, MoE = +/- 4.4%)	54%	27%	9%	7%	3%	*
	81%			16%		
38. A public dialogue and debate about these health and life issues will help patients and their families by providing them with more information about their treatment options.	55%	31%	5%	6%	2%	--
	86%			12%		
39. While palliative care and end-of-life care may be appropriate options for many patients, I worry that emphasizing this care could interfere with doing whatever it takes to help patients extend their lives as long as possible.	21%	26%	26%	22%	3%	*
	47%			49%		

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40. Now that we've talked some more about these issues, how important is it that these health and life issues, including palliative care and end-of-life care, be a top priority for the health care system in this country? Is it...**(ROTATED TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

93% TOTAL IMPORTANT
6% TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT

55% VERY IMPORTANT
37% SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT

5% NOT VERY IMPORTANT
2% NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT

* DON'T KNOW
* REFUSED

Now, thinking about a similar topic that has been in the news recently...

41. To the best of your knowledge, does the new health care reform law allow a government panel to make end-of-life decisions for people on Medicare?

23% YES, IT DOES
40% NO, IT DOES NOT
36% DON'T KNOW
1% REFUSED

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DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

A. Gender

48% Male
52% Female

C. REGION

22% Deep South (AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, TX)
6% Great Plains (IA, KS, MO, NE, ND, OK, SD)
12% Mid-Atlantic (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, NJ)
7% Mountain (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY)
11% Northeast (CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT)
9% Outer South (KY, NC, SC, TN, WV)
16% Pacific (AK, CA, HI, OR, WA)
17% Upper Midwest (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)

F. AGE

19% 18 to 29
28% 30 to 44
18% 45 to 54
17% 55 to 64
17% 65+
1% Refused

42. First, what is the last grade of formal education you have completed?

4% Less than high school
28% High school graduate
25% Some college/vocational school
26% College graduate
16% Post graduate
1% Don't know/Refused

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43. And, generally speaking, do you think of yourself as...**(ROTATED 1 & 2)**...A Republican...a Democrat...an Independent, or something else?

- 27% Republican
- 32% Democrat
- 27% Independent
- 11% Something else
- 3% Don't know/Refused

44. Which of the following best describes your primary health insurance coverage?

- 48% Covered by private insurance through an employer
- 12% Covered by private insurance but not through an employer
- 18% Covered by Medicare
- 6% Covered by Medicaid
- 2% Covered by Tri-Care
- 13% Not currently covered by health insurance
- 2% Don't know/Refused

45. And, how often do you attend church or religious services? **(ROTATED 2-5)**

- 7% Two or more times every week (do not read, volunteered)
- 26% Once a week
- 9% Almost every week
- 12% Once or twice a month
- 23% A few times a year
- 20% Never
- 1% Don't know/Refused

46. For statistical purposes only, could you please tell me your ethnic background?
(RANDOMIZED 1-5)

- 70% White or Caucasian
- 12% Hispanic or Latino
- 13% African-American or Black
- 1% Asian-American or Asian
- 1% Native American
- 2% Other
- 1% Don't know/Refused