

# FACTSHEET

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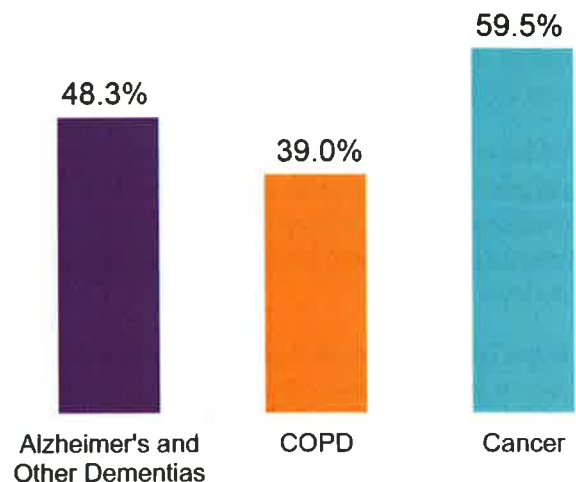
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## PCHETA and Alzheimer's Disease

**Palliative and hospice care – with a focus on managing and easing symptoms, reducing pain and stress, and increasing comfort – can improve both the quality of care and quality of life for those with advanced dementia.**

- Observational studies have shown that as many as half of nursing home residents with advanced dementia have documented pain in the last weeks of life – and about a third have difficulty breathing or swallowing, or suffer from agitation.
- Individuals with advanced dementia who are enrolled in hospice have a lower rate of dying in the hospital, a lower rate of hospitalization in the last 30 days of life, and better symptom management.
- A recent study shows that nursing home residents with dementia who receive palliative care at the end of life, compared with those who do not receive such care, are:
  - up to 15 times less likely to die in a hospital
  - nearly 2.5 times less likely to have a hospitalization in the last 30 days of life
  - up to 4.6 times less likely to have an emergency room visit in the last week of life.
- Families of individuals with dementia who are enrolled in hospice have a greater satisfaction with patient care.

**Percentage of Seniors Receiving Hospice Care at Time of Death, by Condition**



**People with Alzheimer's and other dementias rely heavily on palliative and hospice care at the end of life.**

- Of all people living with dementia, 18.6 percent receive hospice care in a given year – a higher percentage than other chronic conditions. Among seniors in hospice care, one in every five has a primary hospice diagnosis of Alzheimer's or other dementia.
- In the Veterans Administration health care system, 61.4 percent of dementia patients receive palliative care consultations in the last 90 days of life.
- Nearly half of all people with dementia die in hospice care.