

The Lancet Commission on Global Access to Palliative Care and Pain Relief

10 Facts about Children's Suffering and Need for Palliative Care

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

INSTITUTE for ADVANCED
STUDY of the AMERICAS



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
MILLER SCHOOL
of MEDICINE



whpca
worldwide hospice
palliative care alliance



icpcn

international children's
palliative care network



CÁNCER DE MAMA
TOMATEO
A PECHO
ASOCIACIÓN CIVIL



Fundación
Mexicana
para la Salud

Source: Knaul FM, et al. Alleviating the access abyss in palliative care and pain relief—an imperative of universal health coverage: the Lancet Commission report. *The Lancet*. 2017

<http://www.thelancet.com/commissions/palliative-care>

www.miami.edu/lancet

1. Serious health-related suffering (SHS) is associated with illness or injury of any kind that could be ameliorated by palliative care and pain treatment¹.
2. More than 5.3 million children aged 15 years or younger experience SHS each year worldwide.
3. Children and their families have specific and intensive palliative care needs that can easily be overlooked because the absolute number of paediatric patients is low compared with adults².
4. Children account for 9% of patients who experience SHS, 5% of total days with SHS days, and 6% of days in pain.
5. One third of all children who died in 2015 experienced SHS.
6. Every year nearly 2.5 million children die needing palliative care and pain relief and more than 98% of these children are from developing countries.
7. Over 90% of all paediatric deaths associated with SHS in low-income countries are avoidable.
8. In low-income countries, childhood deaths account for more than 30% of all deaths associated with SHS, compared with less than 1% in high-income countries.
9. More than 50% of the burden of SHS in children in low-income countries is associated with HIV disease.
10. At best international medicine prices, the cost of covering the unmet need for opioid analgesics in all children with SHS in low-income countries is just over 1 million USD per year, which is only 63 cents per child in need.

¹The most common SHS health conditions are: atherosclerosis; cerebrovascular disease; chronic ischaemic heart diseases; congenital malformations; degeneration of the CNS; dementia; diseases of the liver; haemorrhagic fevers; HIV disease; inflammatory disease of the CNS; injury, poisoning, and external causes; leukaemia; lung diseases; cancers; musculoskeletal disorders; non-ischaemic heart diseases; premature birth and birth trauma; protein energy malnutrition; renal failure; and tuberculosis. The common SHS physical symptoms are: pain, weakness, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and vomiting, constipation, diarrhoea, dry mouth, itching, and wounds and bleeding. The most common psychological SHS is anxiety and worry, depressed mood, delirium or confusion, and dementia.

²Connor SR, Bermedo MCS. Global atlas of palliative care at the end of life. Geneva: World Health Organization, Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance, 2014