Key facts and statistics

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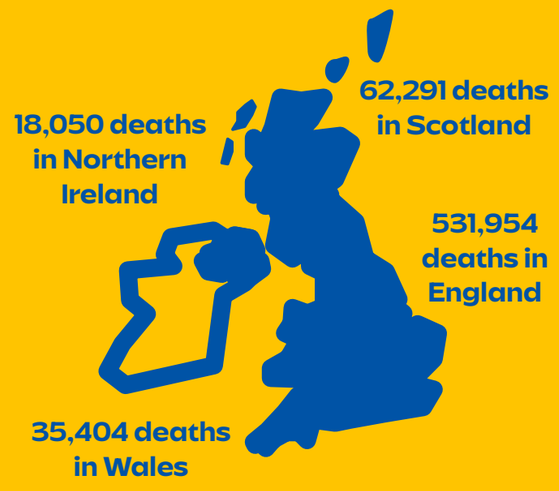
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Visit the Evidence Hub for more detailed statistics and evidence on key subjects.

Key facts and statistics



Every 5 minutes, 6 people die in the UK.[1]

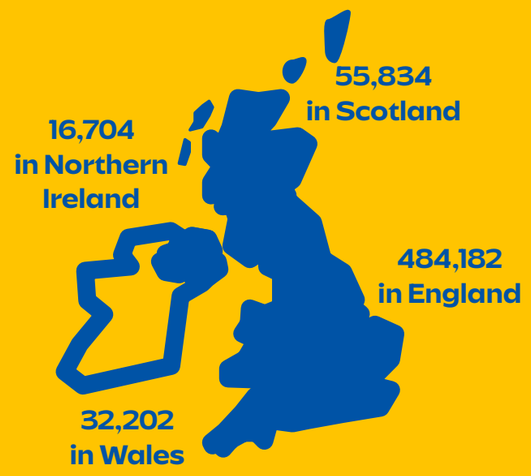


647,699 people died in the UK in 2024.[1]



9 in 10 people dying in the UK today need palliative care.[2]

Number of deaths that would benefit from palliative care by nation in 2024:[1, 2]





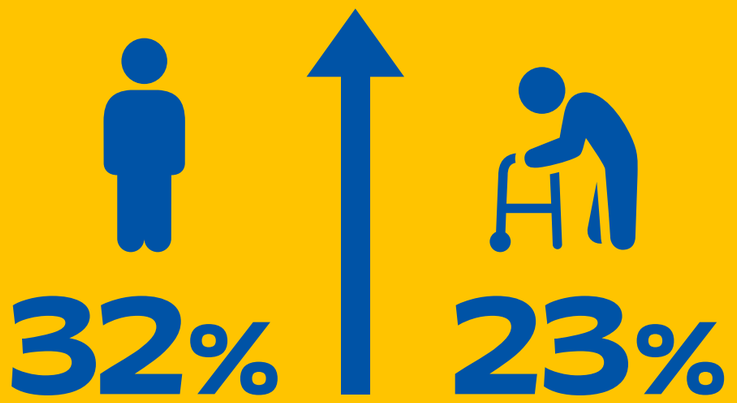
More than 100,000 people die in poverty every year in the UK.[3]



Almost 300 people die in poverty in the UK every day.[3]

Note: includes those that do receive palliative care (not a figure for unmet need).

Key facts and statistics



Being in the last year of life is associated with a 32% greater risk of poverty for working age people, and a 23% greater risk for pensioners.[3]



Up to 760,000 people in the UK are caring for someone at the end of their life, including 180,000 people caring for someone in their own home.[4]



Over 40% of UK adults bereaved between 2016 and 2022 couldn't get the expert bereavement support they wanted.[5]

Key facts and statistics



Marie Curie is the UK's largest charitable funder of palliative and end of life care research.[6]

For more statistics about Marie Curie services and impact, see our Annual Report.



The gap in end of life care



Almost 1 in 3 people don't get the end of life care and support they need.

That's around 200,000 people every year.*[7]

Note: this statistic was generated using a different methodology to previous estimates of unmet need used by Marie Curie. Please do not use this statistic to imply increased need from earlier estimates.

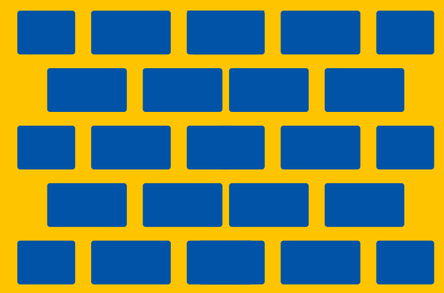


Every 3 minutes someone in the UK dies without the care and support they need.[7]

Note: this statistic was generated using a different methodology to previous estimates of unmet need used by Marie Curie. Please do not use this statistic to imply increased need from earlier estimates.



Without additional intervention, by 2050 over 250,000 people in the UK won't receive all the end of life care and support they need. That's an increase of 21% (or 44,400 more people) compared to 2025.*[7]



Some groups are more likely to experience barriers to accessing the right end of life care.[8]

including: people living in rural or deprived areas; minoritised ethnic communities; people with learning disabilities;[9] imprisoned people; people experiencing homelessness; and LGBTQ+ communities. [10]

*Nation-specific estimates are also available. Contact the relevant nation's policy team.

End of life experiences and preferences

Marie Curie research has found that...



One in three people were severely or overwhelmingly affected by pain in their final week of life.[11]

Note: You must contact the England Policy team before using this statistic to ensure use is consistent with current context and organisational position.



One in five people had no contact with a GP in the last three months of life.[11]

Note: You must contact the England Policy team before using this statistic to ensure use is consistent with current context and organisational position.



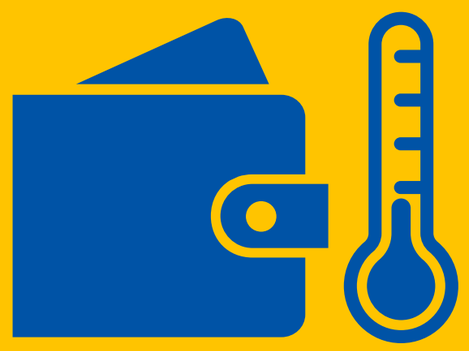
More than half of people (56%) would prefer to die at home.[12]

Palliative and end of life care expenditure

Recent Marie Curie research has found that...



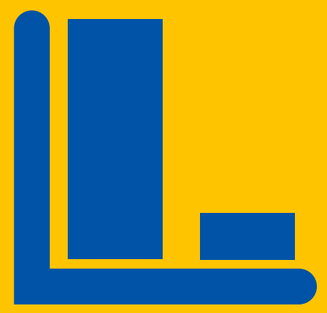
The top three priorities for people thinking about their last year of life were being free of pain and other symptoms (36%), being able to maintain dignity and self-respect (31%) and being surrounded by loved ones (29%).[12]



Over 120,000 people die in fuel poverty every year.[3]



Over 80% of the public money spent on healthcare in the final year of life was spent on hospital care.[13]



UK governments spent five times as much on supporting people in the final year of life as hospital inpatients, as supporting them with primary care, community health and hospice care.*[13]

*excluding NHS hospice services

Looking to the future

The need for palliative care is growing in the UK. Our ageing society means more people will be living for longer, with multiple complex health conditions. So more people will need palliative care as they are dying.



By 2035, 7 people will die every 5 minutes (almost 735,000 people per year).

That's almost 71,000 more people dying every year compared to 2025.*



By 2050, 8 people will die every 5 minutes (over 825,000 people per year).

That's over 160,000 more people dying every year compared to 2025.*



Two thirds of people over 65 will be living with multiple health conditions by 2035.[15]

*** Marie Curie calculation[14]**

Looking to the future



By 2035, the need for end of life care will rise by 10% compared to 2025. Over 60,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2035, the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in the UK will rise by more than 60,000, to over 660,000 people per year.*



By 2050, the need for end of life care will rise by almost 25% compared to 2025. Over 147,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2050, the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in the UK will rise by more than 147,000 to over 745,000 people per year.*

* Marie Curie calculation[14]

Looking to the future by nation: England



By 2035, over 600,000 people will die every year in England. That's almost 60,000 more people dying compared to 2025.*



By 2035 the need for end of life care in England will rise by over 10% compared to 2025. Almost 54,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2035 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in England will rise by almost 54,000 to over 545,000 people per year.*



By 2050, over 685,000 people will die every year in England. That's 138,000 more people compared to 2025.*



By 2050 the need for end of life care in England will rise by 25% compared to 2025. Over 120,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2050 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in England will rise by more than 120,000 to over 610,000 people per year.*

* Marie Curie calculation[14]

Looking to the future by nation: Northern Ireland



By 2035, almost 20,000 people will die every year in Northern Ireland. That's over 2,400 more people dying compared to 2025.*



By 2035 the need for end of life care in Northern Ireland will rise by almost 14% compared to 2025. Over 2,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2035 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in Northern Ireland will rise by more than 2,000 to over 17,800 people per year.*



By 2050, over 23,000 people will die every year in Northern Ireland. That's over 5,500 more people compared to 2025.*



By 2050 the need for end of life care in Northern Ireland will rise by over 30% compared to 2025. Over 5,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2050 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in Northern Ireland will rise by more than 5,000 to 20,800 people per year.*

* Marie Curie calculation[14]

Looking to the future by nation: Scotland



By 2035, over 68,000 people will die each year in Scotland. That's over 4,500 more people dying compared to 2025.*



By 2035 the need for end of life care in Scotland will rise by 7% compared to 2025. Over 4,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2035 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in Scotland will rise by more than 4,000 to over 61,000 people per year.*



By 2050, over 75,000 people will die every year in Scotland. That's over 12,000 more people compared to 2025.*



By 2050 the need for end of life care in Scotland will rise by almost 20% compared to 2025. Almost 11,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2050 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in Scotland will rise by almost 11,000 to 68,000 people per year.*

* Marie Curie calculation[14]

Looking to the future by nation: Wales



By 2035, over 39,000 people will die each year in Wales. That's over 3,700 more people dying compared to 2025.*



By 2035 the need for end of life care in Wales will rise by 10% compared to 2025. Over 3,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2035 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in Wales will rise by more than 3,000 to over 35,000 people per year.*



By 2050, over 43,000 people will die every year in Wales. That's 7,800 more people compared to 2025.*



By 2050 the need for end of life care in Wales will rise by 21% compared to 2025. Over 7,000 more people will need care every year.*



By 2050 the number of people needing palliative and end of life care in Wales will rise by more than 7,000 to 39,000 people per year.*

* Marie Curie calculation[14]

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Other useful links

Visit the Evidence Hub for more detailed statistics and evidence on key subjects

Brand guidance

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Story Hub

For questions about these facts and statistics

Research team

For more information about things mentioned in this document

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If you would like information from any of these links, please contact your Volunteer Manager or email volunteeringcommunications@mariecurie.org.uk so we can send the relevant resources and support you in accessing the information you need.