

# PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY SURVEY | JULY 2017

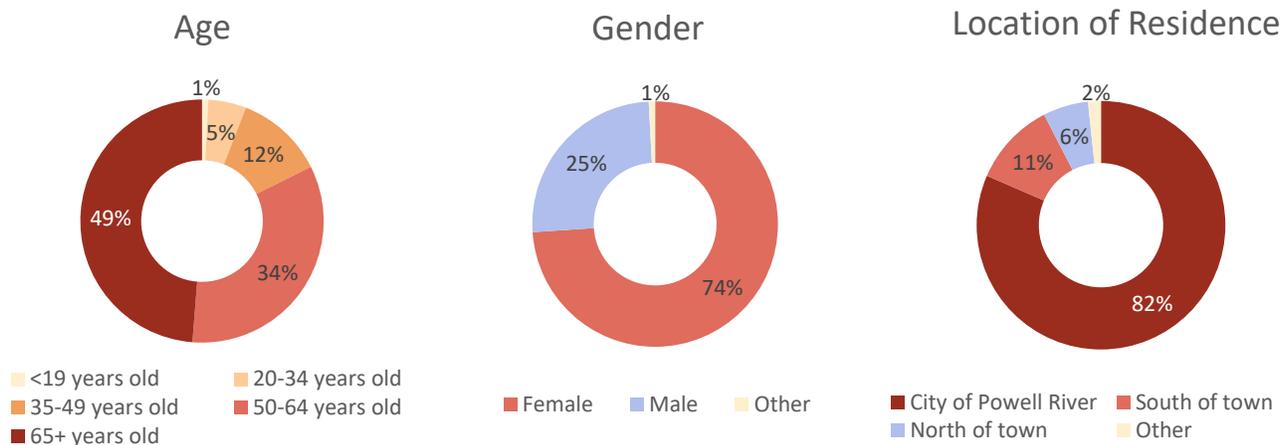
## About the Survey

The Powell River Hospice Society and the Powell River Division of Family Practice conducted the Palliative Care Community Survey during the month of June 2017. The survey was distributed by the Powell River Hospice Society in both paper and online formats to assess the baseline level of awareness about palliative care in the Powell River community. Responses were collected both voluntarily and anonymously, and a total of n=120 were collected.

## Results

### Demographics

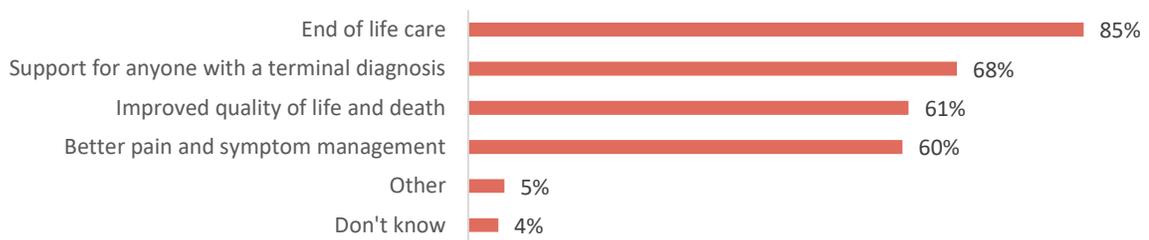
The typical respondent to the Palliative Care Community Survey was over the age of 65, female, and from the City of Powell River. Of the 119 respondents who provided their demographic data, almost half were 65 years of age or older, and another third were in the age range of 50 to 64 years old. Almost three-quarters of respondents identified as female, one quarter identified as male, and 1% responded “Other” when asked to provide their gender. Finally, 82% of respondents were from the City of Powell River itself; the remaining respondents identified being from South of town, North of town, or “Other”.



## Palliative Care Awareness

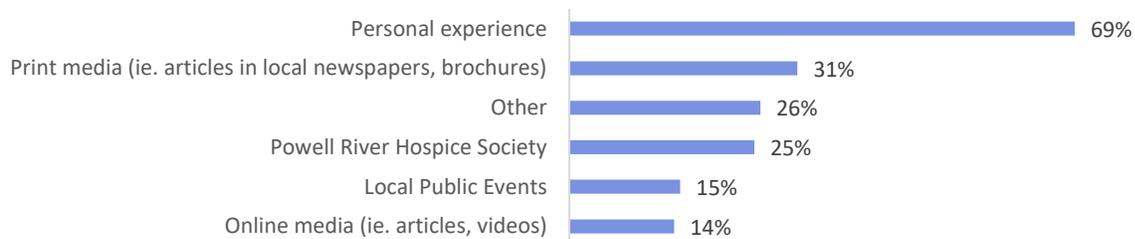
The majority of respondents (85%) associate palliative care with the idea of “End of life care” (fig. 1). However, “Support for anyone with a terminal diagnosis”, “Improved quality of life and death”, and “Better pain and symptom management” were also very common responses (60-68%); many respondents checked all four of these boxes when answering the question “What does palliative care mean to you?” (fig. 1). Of the respondents who answered “Other” to this question, two described family support, and one described “support for caregivers where appropriate” (see Appendix for a full list of comments).

Fig. 1 - "What does palliative care mean to you?" (n=120)



When asked how they learned about palliative care, respondents most frequently answered “Personal experience” (69%; fig. 2). Other common responses included print media, “Other”, and the Powell River Hospice Society (fig. 2). Comments that specified what respondents meant by “Other” spoke to working in a field related to palliative care (n=9), learning through other organizations (n=2), other forms of media (e.g. radio or TV; n=3), or formal education (n=2), and learning through word of mouth or the experiences of friends and family members (n=12) (see Appendix for a full list of comments).

Fig. 2 - "How have you learned about palliative care?" (n=118)



Finally, 59% of respondents indicated that their knowledge about palliative care increased in the past year (fig. 3). Respondents who learned about palliative care through the Powell River Hospice Society, print media, personal experience, or local public events indicated more often that their knowledge about palliative care increased in the past year compared to those who learned through online media or “Other” sources.

Fig. 3 - "Has your knowledge about palliative care increased in the past year?" (n=119)



## Conclusion

The Palliative Care Community Survey received a large sample of responses (n=120), with particularly strong representation from older females residing in the City of Powell River. Respondents tended to view palliative care as a multifaceted concept, which may be defined as “End of life care”, “Support for anyone with a terminal diagnosis”, “Improved quality of life and death”, and/or “Better pain and symptom management”. Additionally, in the past year, over half of survey respondents indicated that their knowledge about palliative care increased.

Respondents indicated that they learn about palliative care from a variety of sources, but most commonly do so through personal experiences. Other common sources include print media and the Powell River Hospice Society; these three sources, along with “Local public events”, were especially common amongst those respondents who indicated that their palliative care knowledge increased in the past year.

## Appendix

<b>“What does palliative care mean to you?” – Other</b>
Support for family
Family support
support for caregivers where appropriate
The chance to feel more at ease and cared for...less institutional
All of the above.
This is where Heroin ought to be utilized, if/when needed to control pain, yet retain lucidity.
<b>“How have you learned about palliative care?” – Other</b>
Work
cared for someone with a terminal illness
Vancouver Drake medox
TV news clips
Friends
Word of mouth
Speaking to people
Daughter a palliative care nurse
Haven't
Books
Daughter
Canadian Red Cross
aging worker in ECU
Work in hospital - lab
Work-related
Peak
RN at PRGH
Radio etc.
Friend's experience
Working in health care
My daughter
My wife, Melissa Boureder
From past conversations.
work experience
My parents needed help. It really did not exist in Canada in the mid 1980s
I work as a community health worker for Home Support in Powell River and I do a lot of care for palliative clients
Took a palliative care course to supplement my Community Health Care work.
Reading, thinking, and caring about life and death.
College
Family member dying
retired Ipn