

Place of death of older people in 13 countries: Do nursing home deaths increase with increasing age?

Sandra Martins Pereira^(1a), Joachim Cohen^(2b), Lieve Van den Block^(2a,b), Dirk Houttekier^(2b), Luc Deliens^(2ab),
on behalf of EURO-IMPACT^(a) and IPoD^(b)

⁽¹⁾VU Medical Center Amsterdam, EMGO+ Institute for Health and Care Research, The Netherlands; ⁽²⁾Vrije Universiteit Brussel & Ghent University, End-of-Life Care Research Group, Belgium

BACKGROUND

- ❖ A significant number of old people live and die in **long-term care settings**.
- ❖ The **availability of alternatives to hospital** (e.g., Nursing homes, Home care services) play an important role to **avoid hospitalisation for older people at the end of life**.

A DEATH-CERTIFICATE STUDY

- ❖ Death-certificate study in 13 countries



- ❖ 5.438.800 deaths
- ❖ 2.478.419 (45.6%) died aged ≥ 80

Age Groups			
80-84	85-89	90-94	95+
% of all deaths			
15.7%	15.4%	9.5%	5.0%

NURSING HOME AS PLACE OF DEATH

- ❖ The **highest % of nursing home deaths** was found in the **Netherlands** (74% of deaths among people deceased aged ≥ 95).
- ❖ The **lowest % of nursing home deaths** was found in **Korea** (4% of deaths among people deceased aged ≥ 95).

Nursing home as Place of Death in 13 countries:

Age-related differences among people deceased aged ≥ 80

Place of death	Age Groups	ES	IT	FR	BE	NL	CZ	ENG	WAL	NZ	CA	US	MX	KR
Nursing home	80-84 (ref. cat.)													
	vs. 85-89	1.16	1.22	1.40	1.44	1.43	1.14	1.43	1.48	1.46	1.34	1.35	-	1.14
	vs. 90-94	1.19	1.51	1.88	2.24	2.18	1.29	2.09	2.10	2.83	1.85	1.75	-	1.98
	vs. +95	1.38	1.82	2.45	3.42	3.19	1.44	3.39	4.20	3.54	2.54	2.29	-	1.51

Multivariate analysis using logistic regression, with PoD: Nursing home as outcome variable, and controlling for sex, marital status and underlying cause of death. Significant results (Odds Ratio) are highlighted in bold. Confidence Intervals are not presented as results refer to the whole population.

CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY ADVICE

Dying in nursing homes increases together with age in all countries studied.
The availability of beds (nr. per capita) is a determinant factor of nursing home deaths.
Based on the findings of this study, **we recommend**:

- The development and implementation of **palliative care for older people in nursing homes**;
- More research on the meaning of **“home”** and **“dying in place”** among the **oldest population**.

Contact martinspereira.sandra@gmail.com

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