TRENDS AND DISPARITIES IN HOSPICE UTILIZATION AMONG PATIENTS WITH NON-HODGKIN LYMPHOMA (2003–2020): A CDC WONDER DATABASE ANALYSIS

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Introduction

Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL) accounts for a significant portion of hematologic malignancies in the U.S. While progress has been made in therapeutic approaches, disparities in palliative care and hospice utilization remain poorly understood.

Aim

To evaluate trends in hospice and home (H&H) service utilization among NHL patients and assess disparities by demographic subgroups.

Objectives

- Assess temporal trends in hospice use among NHL patients (2003–2020)
- Identify disparities based on sex, race, age, and geographic location
- Evaluate the uptake of H&H services in underrepresented groups

Methods

CDC WONDER mortality data from 2003 to 2020 was used to analyze trends in hospice use among NHL patients (ICD-10: C85.90). Hospice and H&H service usage was examined across subgroups by sex, race, geographic location (metro vs non-metro), and age. Statistical analysis included Mann–Kendall trend tests for temporal analysis and t-tests for continuous variable comparisons.

Results

Hospice Utilization (2003–2020):

- Increased from 0.32% to 7.63% ($\tau = 0.92$, $p < .001$)

Subgroup Trends (All $p < .001$):

- All demographic groups showed significant upward trends

Absolute Hospice Use by Group:

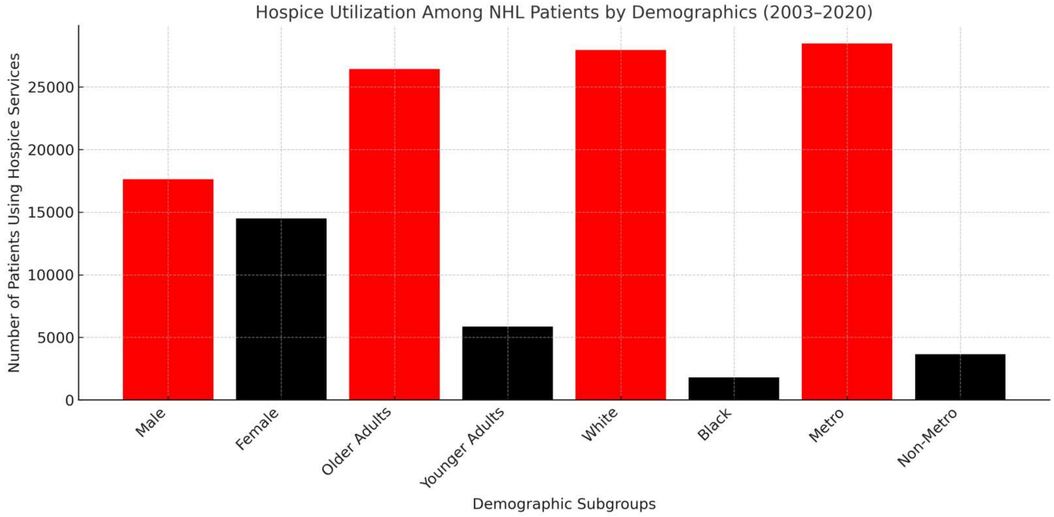
- Males: 17,625 vs. Females: 14,500
- Older adults: 26,441 vs. Younger adults: 5,861
- White patients: 27,952 vs. Black patients: 1,811
- Metropolitan: 28,470 vs. Non-metropolitan: 3,655

Summary

Hospice and H&H service utilization has steadily increased among NHL patients between 2003 and 2020, with consistent growth across all demographic subgroups.

Discussion

While the overall rise in hospice utilization is promising, disparities remain. Lower uptake among women, Black patients, and those in non-metropolitan areas highlights persistent inequities. These findings call for tailored outreach and policy efforts to ensure equitable access to end-of-life care for all NHL patients.



The abstract reports original research; no funding was required. All authors declare no conflicts of interest.© 2025. All rights reserved.