

# Patterns of Palliative Care Utilization Among Patients With Lymphoma: Insights From a National Analysis of Hospitalizations in the United States

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## Introduction

- Palliative care utilization improves quality of life, psychological distress, and end-of-life outcomes.
- However, limited research exists on palliative care use in lymphoma.

## Aim

- This study describes patient and hospital characteristics associated with inpatient palliative care utilization in Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

## Method

- Data source: 2022 National Inpatient Sample.
- Patient and hospital characteristics were compared between those who received palliative care and those who did not.
- Patient-level characteristics: age, sex, race/ethnicity, primary insurance type, income
- Hospital characteristics: bed size, location, and teaching status.
- Survey-weighted statistical analysis: t-test and chi-square test for group comparisons done in Stata 19.

## Results

- A total of 43,220 hospitalizations for lymphoma were identified. Prevalence of inpatient palliative care use was 9.1%.
- Mean age was higher among patients receiving palliative care (70.9 vs 63.5 years,  $p < 0.001$ ).
- No significant difference by sex ( $p = 0.535$ ) and income ( $p = 0.4633$ ).

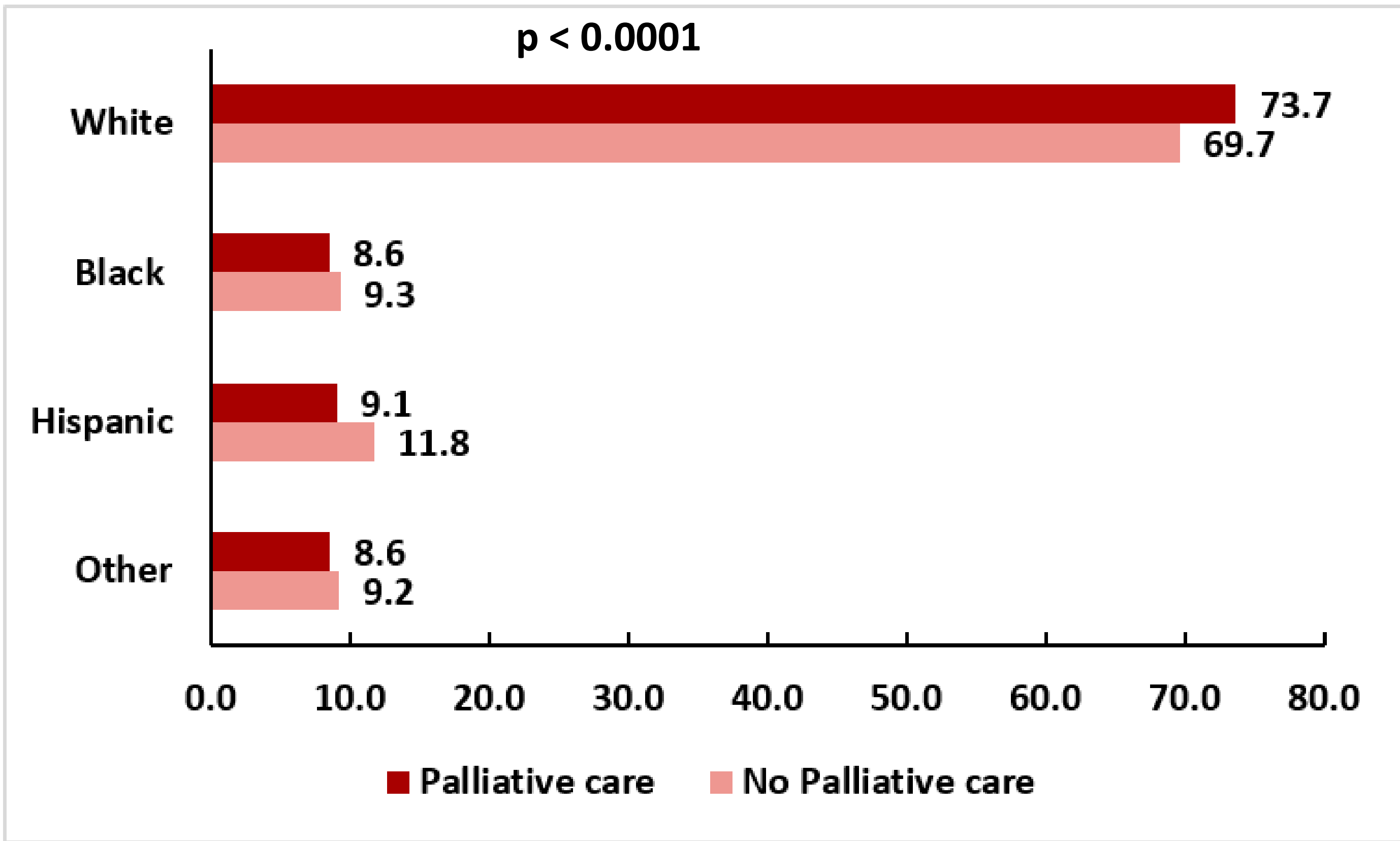


Figure 1: Differences in palliative care utilization by race/ethnicity (%)

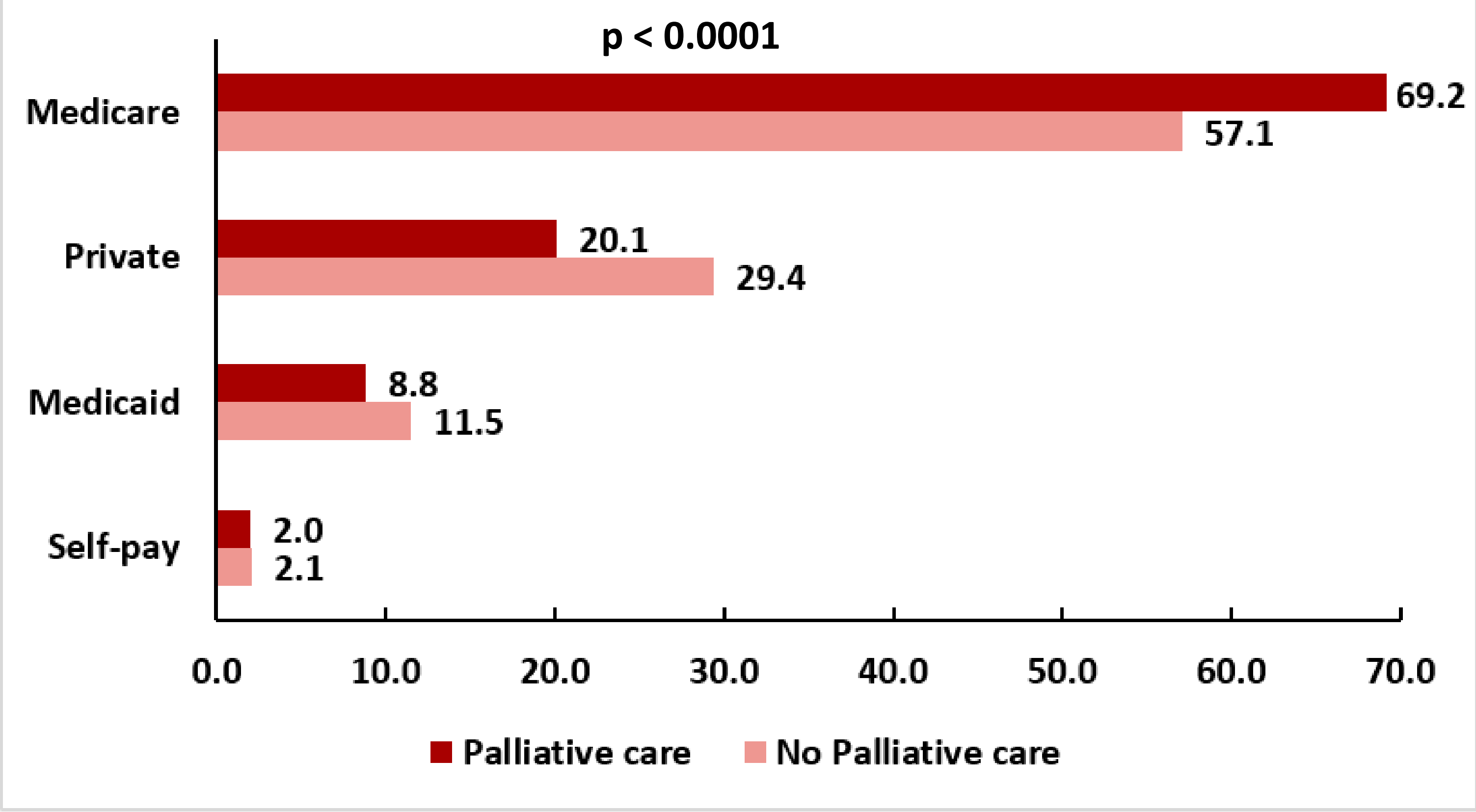


Figure 2: Differences in palliative care utilization by insurance (%)

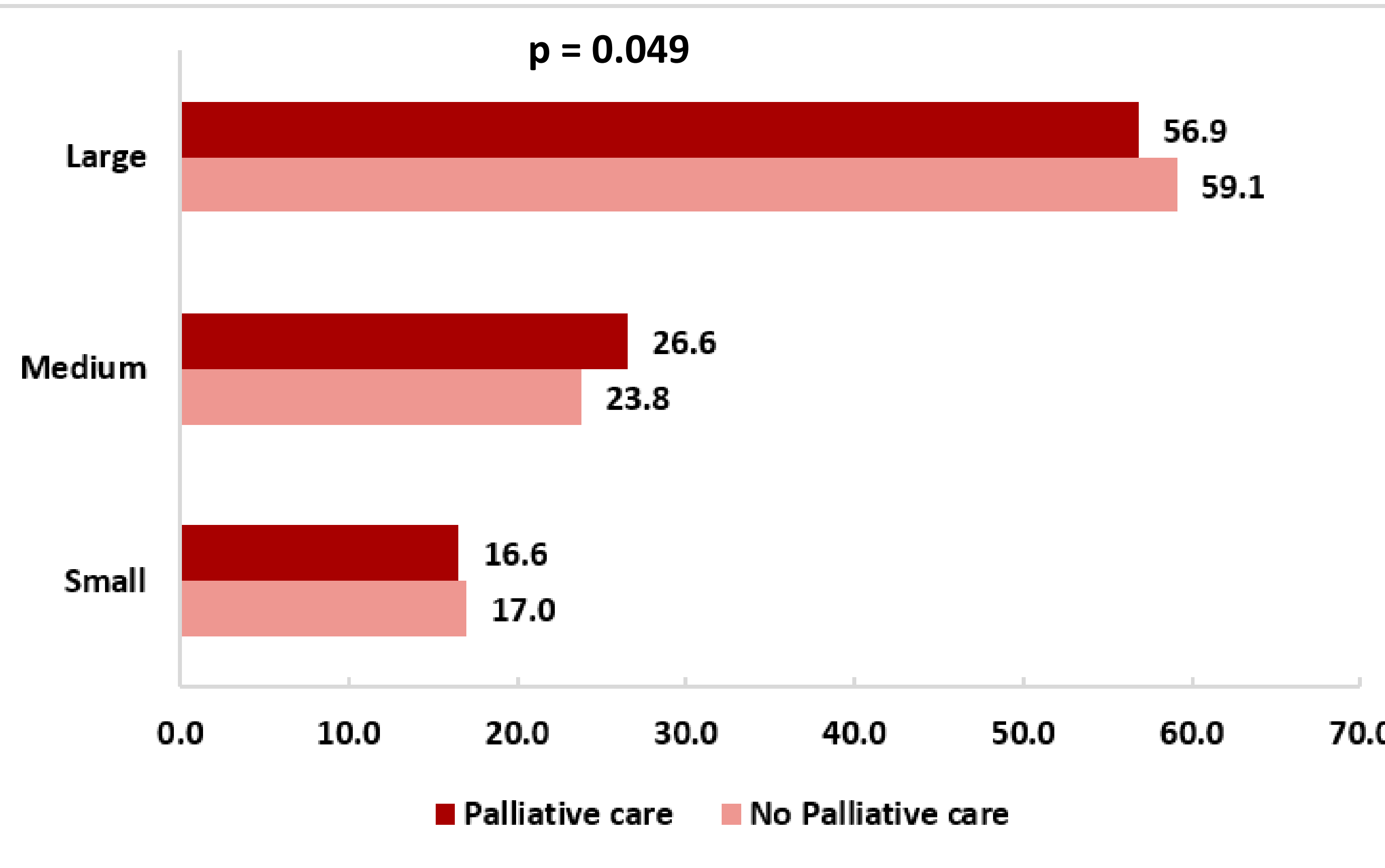


Figure 3: Differences in palliative care utilization by hospital bed size (%)

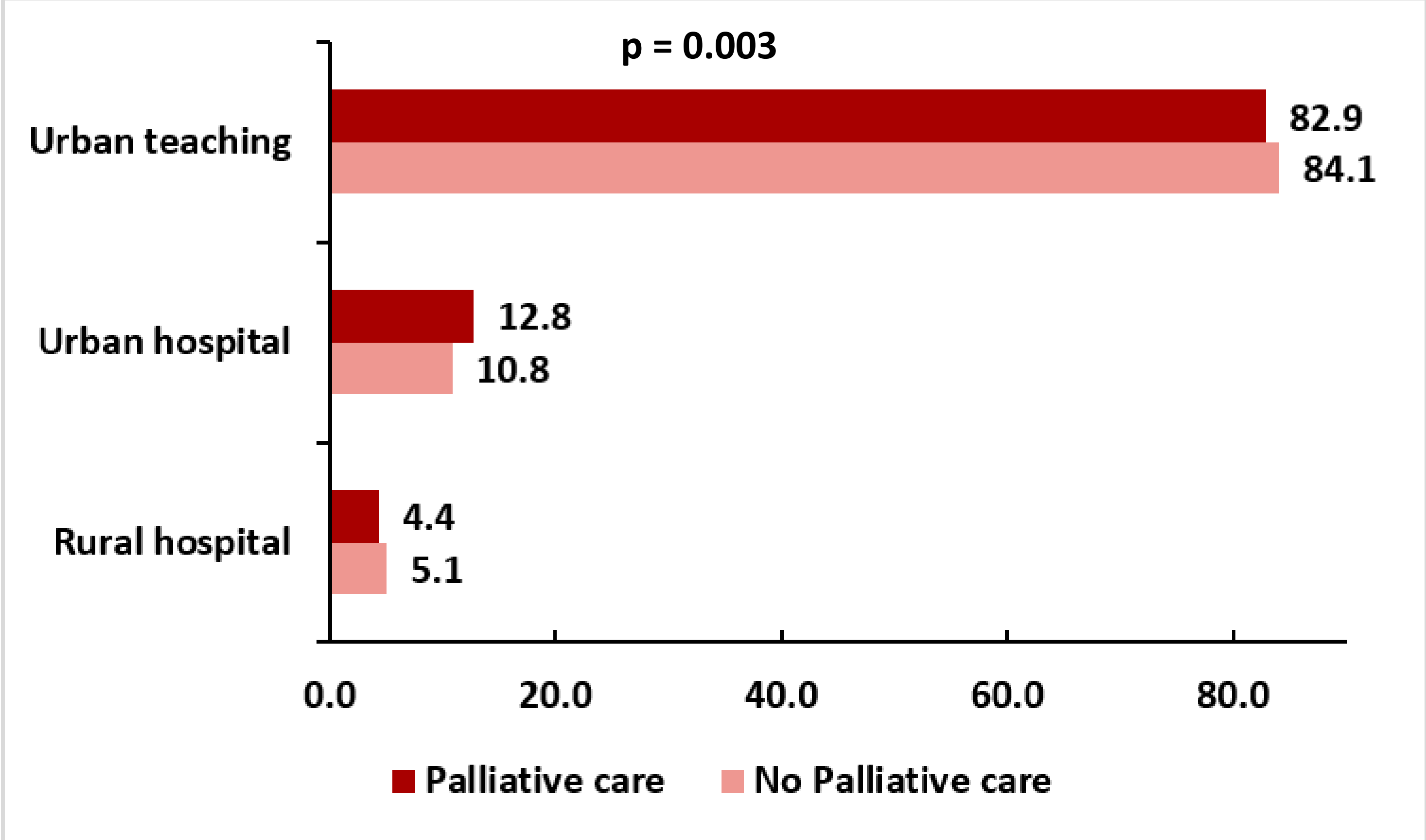


Figure 4: Differences in palliative care utilization by hospital location/teaching status (%)

## Conclusions

- Among the analyzed study sample, findings highlight the suboptimal use of inpatient palliative care among patients with lymphoma.
- Differences by age, race/ethnicity, insurance, and hospital characteristics were reported.
- These findings suggest the need to better understand and address barriers preventing palliative care use among patients with lymphoma.

## References

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- Ferrell, B. R., Temel, J. S., Temin, S., & Smith, T. J. (2017). Integration of palliative care into standard oncology care: ASCO clinical practice guideline update summary. Journal of oncology practice, 13(2), 119-121.