2017 Nebraska End-of-Life Survey Report

Key Findings

Hospice

95% of respondents said they’ve heard of hospice services.

Most (68%) learned about hospice because someone they know used it.

Palliative Care

37% of respondents said they’ve heard of palliative care.

This is up from 27% having heard of palliative care in 2010.

Support Near End of Life

92% of respondents said they will need someone to know what they want when they die.

This is an increase from 2010, indicating it is becoming more important to Nebraskans that others know their end-of-life wishes.

From Figure 1: Have you heard of hospice services?

- Yes, I have heard a lot about hospice services: 47.3%
- Yes, I have heard a little about hospice services: 47.5%
- No, I have never heard of hospice services: 5.2%

From Figure 8: Have you heard of palliative care?

- Yes, I have heard a lot about palliative care: 62.6%
- Yes, I have heard a little about palliative care: 23.6%
- Yes, I have heard a lot about palliative care: 13.8%

From Figure 15: Support expectations from others needed at the end of life

- I expect to need someone to listen when I talk: 89.5%
- I expect to need someone to provide transportation: 81.1%
- I expect to need someone to help with chores: 83.8%
- I expect to need someone to do fun things with me: 71.5%
- I expect to need someone to know what I want when I die: 92.3%
- I expect to need someone to help care for other family members: 59.2%
- I expect to need someone to encourage me when I’m down: 78.1%
- I expect to need someone to do fun things with me: 67.5%
- I expect to need someone to help care for other family members: 83.9%
Advance Directives

A Health Care Power of Attorney (HCPA) is a document that names someone to make decisions about your health care in the event you become incapacitated.

- 29.1% have heard about and completed
- 59.6% have heard about but not completed
- 11.3% have not heard about

Pain

- 29.3% very afraid of dying painfully
- 41.1% not at all afraid
- 17.9% somewhat afraid
- 7.3% not very afraid

Thoughts on Death

- 70% of respondents are afraid of dying painfully
- 42.8% very comfortable talking about death
- 38.5% somewhat comfortable
- 12.8% not very comfortable
- 3.4% not at all comfortable
- 2.5% not sure

Visit nehospice.org for more information and an electronic version of the Nebraska End-of-Life Survey Report.