

FINAL WISHES

Californians Know What They Want in End-of-Life Care, But Often Don't Get It

70% prefer to die at home, but too many still die in the hospital.



Percentage who died in hospitals:

California 2003 **34%**

California 2010 **29%**

National Average 2010 **25%**

67% prefer a natural death/low-intensity care, but many receive aggressive care at the end of life.



Percentage who saw 10+ doctors in the last 6 months of life:

California 2003 **30%**

California 2010 **41%**

National Average 2010 **42%**

66% say it is "extremely important" to be comfortable and pain-free, but many don't receive the full benefits of hospice care.



Number of days in hospice care:

California 2003 **10**

California 2010 **17**

National Average 2010 **21**

PUT IT IN WRITING



57% of Californians say it is "extremely important" that their medical care wishes are followed.



However, only **23%** put their wishes in writing.

Physicians can start a conversation with their patients, and patients can document their wishes in writing.

SOURCES: "Final Chapter: Californians' Attitudes and Experiences with Death and Dying," California HealthCare Foundation 2012, Dartmouth Atlas Project and New America Foundation. "End-of-Life Care in California: You Don't Always Get What You Want." www.chcf.org/publications/2013/04/eol-what-you-want

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