

<b>Title</b>	<b>Equitability of access to community palliative care for decedents of cancer in Western Australia</b>
<b>Number</b>	7
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<b>Abstract</b>	Perth has the unique position of having a sole provider of community-based palliative care servicing the entire metropolitan region. Silver Chain's Hospice Care Service (HCS) is a home-based, multidisciplinary service that provides 24/7 support to client, carer, and family. Referral to the HCS is not limited by type of illness or expected time to death. As interest in a palliative community care model grows, so does the need to understand the impact of this type of service. As part of a larger study, we aimed to identify factors effecting accessibility to the HCS. To do this, a population-based cohort study was undertaken on WA residents who died of cancer 2001-2011. Data were linked from the WA Cancer Registry, WA hospital and ED databases, the WA death registry, and Silver Chain's database. Males were less likely to access the HCS and decedents who had a current partner at death were more likely. Older age groups were less likely to access and socioeconomic status was found to have minimal effect. Odds of HCS access varied by cancer type with decedents of blood cancers least likely to access. As more evidence emerges to support the benefits of a community-based palliative approach, it is necessary to ensure these benefits are available to all. This study provides evidence to the palliative care community on factors effecting access to community-based palliative care and informs future research in identifying barriers to this service.