



# Health promotion approach to palliative care- A community study of concept of death in the East of Taiwan

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## Background

Hualien is the most important region in eastern Taiwan as well as the one of five main life circle regions in Taiwan. Hualien County has 340,000 inhabitants and divided into 1 city and 12 townships. For its lately development, the aboriginal culture are reserved well. The population of aborigines is arrived at one-fourth in Hualien County (about 90,000).



## Objectives

To clarify the cognition of the Taiwanese general population related to palliative regulation and palliative care.



## Methods

A cross-sectional anonymous survey was conducted in the general population in the eastern Taiwan. The questionnaire was developed two topics in this study: (1) the legal knowledge about palliative regulation in Taiwan. (2) the attitudes toward palliative service. The participants were community residents who joined the community health examination program. The researchers given the questionnaire while the community residents were waiting for the physical examination.



## Results

Table 1. Participants characteristics (N=59)

Variables	n	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	20	33.9
Female	39	66.1
<b>Age (yr) (M±SD)</b>		
≤50	14	23.7
51-60	29	49.2
>60	15	25.4
Missing	1	1.7
<b>School years</b>		
≤6	15	25.4
7-11	32	53.9
≥12	11	18.6
Missing	1	1.7
<b>Religion</b>		
Confucianism	3	5.1
Christian	4	6.8
Taoism	17	28.7
Buddhism	29	49.2
Others	6	10.2
<b>Family died within One year</b>		
No	42	71.2
Yes	14	23.7
Missing	3	5.1

Table 2. Hospice experiences (N=59)

Variables	n	%
<b>Family had been suffering from cancer</b>		
No	29	49.2
Yes	27	45.7
Missing	3	5.1
<b>Family had been cared by hospice team</b>		
No	30	50.8
Yes	14	23.7
Missing	6	10.2
<b>Had ever taken hospice courses</b>		
No	51	86.4
Yes	5	8.5
Missing	3	5.1
<b>Ever heard hospice before</b>		
No	15	25.4
Yes	44	74.6
<b>Ever heard hospice regulation before</b>		
No	47	79.7
Yes	12	20.3

Table 3. Participants attitude toward palliative care (N=59)

Variables	n	%
<b>Hospice care would cost you lots of money.</b>		
No	30	50.8
Yes	26	44.1
Not sure	2	3.4
Missing	1	1.7
<b>Hospice care is equal to euthanasia.</b>		
No	38	64.0
Yes	17	28.8
Not sure	4	6.8
<b>Patients have nothing to do in the hospice ward (waiting to die)</b>		
No	38	64.4
Yes	19	32.2
Not sure	2	3.4
<b>Patients can stay at hospice ward until die.</b>		
No	37	62.7
Yes	19	32.2
Not sure	3	5.1
<b>Hospice care suits only those who are nearly dying/terminal patients.</b>		
No	29	49.2
Yes	28	47.5
Not sure	2	3.4
<b>Do you recommend that your family receive hospice care?</b>		
No	9	15.3
Yes	50	84.7



## Conclusions

The study illustrated the cognition of palliative service in a community. These findings could be useful in developing a palliative care education for community residents to increase the social awareness of palliative care and hope that more people can receive palliative care.



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