

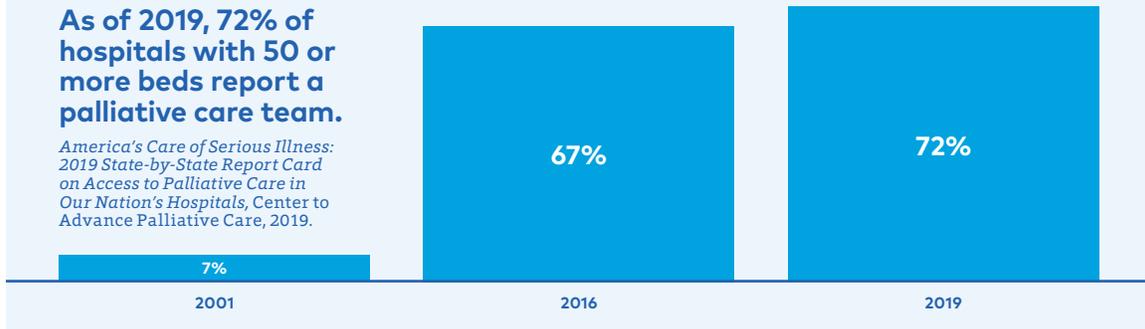
## Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we begin a brand new decade, I am reminded of the tremendous strides we have made in ensuring patients living with a serious illness, and their families, have access to the highest-quality health care.

When the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) was founded twenty years ago, most people had never heard of palliative care, and fewer than 7% of U.S. hospitals provided any palliative care services. Fast forward to today. Our 4th edition of the [State-by-State Report Card](#) shows that 72% of U.S. hospitals with 50 or more beds have a palliative care team—stunning spread and scale by any standard.

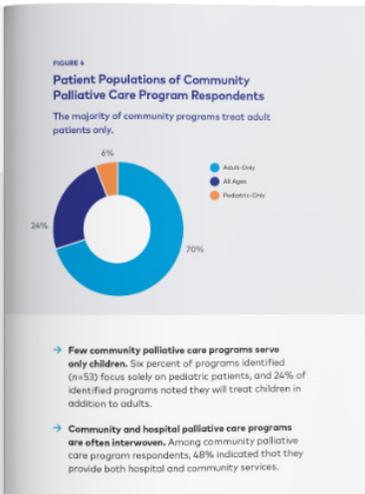
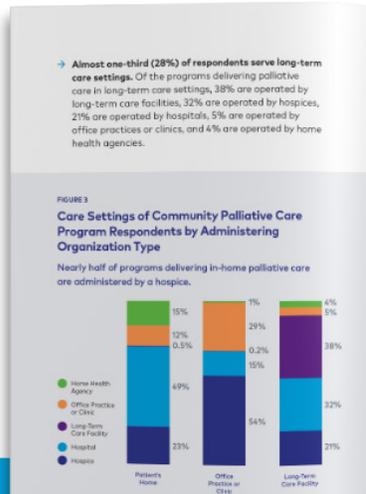
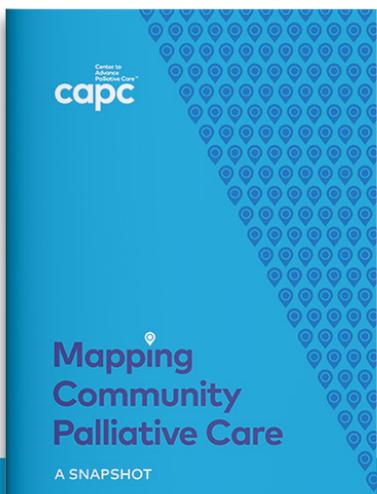
As of 2019, 72% of hospitals with 50 or more beds report a palliative care team.

*America's Care of Serious Illness: 2019 State-by-State Report Card on Access to Palliative Care in Our Nation's Hospitals, Center to Advance Palliative Care, 2019.*



You can learn more about who has access to palliative care—and who still doesn't—on the [Report Card website](#).

Not only has palliative care spread rapidly in hospitals, it is also making its presence known beyond hospitals—in people's homes, in office practices, and in nursing homes. After all, the great majority of people living with a serious illness are not in a hospital, but living in the community, and they need services there, too. Our [Mapping Community Palliative Care project](#) found that a remarkable 890 programs are providing care in more than 3,000 community sites, including in people's homes, nursing homes, and in offices and clinics.



To make sure people can find this care when and where they need it, we enhanced our [Palliative Care Provider Directory](#) on [GetPalliativeCare.org](#). You can now enter your zip code, city, or state and find a list of palliative care services in your area.

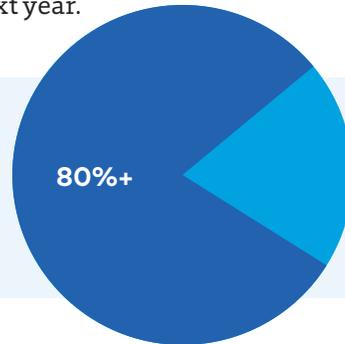
A big part of ensuring access to the best quality care during a serious illness is making sure that all doctors and nurses get training in essential skills: how to safely manage pain and other distressing symptoms; how to talk with patients and families about what to expect and what their treatment options are; and how to support the family members doing the lion's share of the caring for their loved ones.

Most of us, however, did not get any training in how to do this in medical and nursing school. So CAPC built a [curriculum](#) with the intent of reaching beyond palliative care specialists to all health care professionals. The goal is to ensure that all doctors and nurses can be relied upon to provide compassionate and skilled care when people need it most, during treatment for a serious illness.

I am proud to report that since we launched the 53-course curriculum, nearly 50,000 clinicians have completed 381,000 courses. As we had hoped, and according to design, more than 80% of the people using our courses are frontline clinicians who do not work in palliative care. These are the very people we are focused on reaching. Our plan is to reach at least 25% of all practicing clinicians in the U.S. by 2030. More on our progress on that next year.

**More than 80% of the people using CAPC courses are frontline clinicians who do not work in palliative care.**

Center to Advance Palliative Care, 2019.



Finally, it is wonderful that palliative care is spreading, and that doctors and nurses and other health professionals across the country are choosing to work in the field. But lifetime careers require a sustainable income, and payment for palliative care lags far behind that received by other specialists. In an effort to ensure that a career in palliative care does not require an oath of poverty, we are working closely with health insurance companies of all types to link the value of this work to appropriate reimbursement. The future availability of palliative care depends upon it.

None of this work would be possible without the brilliant team at CAPC, our 1,600+ organizational members, and our many philanthropic and foundation supporters. I am deeply grateful to all of you and hope you share in our celebration of all that has changed for the better in the last twenty years. Onward to the work remaining!



Sincerely,

*Diane E. Meier*

**Diane E. Meier, MD**

**Director, Center to Advance Palliative Care**