

Announcing Key Findings Idaho Statewide End-of-Life Survey

The Idaho survey is one of four statewide surveys asking people to share their thoughts about the end of life. We had an exceptionally high, 39.4%, response rate. 1,181 people completed the 12-page survey, the highest response for similar surveys in the nation.

Compassionate care at the end of life has been an issue of heightened importance since Idaho received a “D grade” in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2002 report card on dying in America. While we are pleased with improvements featured in the executive summary timeline, we also know difficult issues remain in Idaho:

- Most people are not dying at home with family nearby,
- Wishes for end-of-life care are often unknown or the cause of confusion and conflict,
- Pain remains a significant issue especially for residents in nursing homes,
- Hospice care is not available to all people, and
- Spiritual needs may go unrecognized for people at the end of life.

Believing that all people deserve compassionate end-of-life care, the Coalition and Center, with the support of 18 sponsoring organizations, conducted a statewide end-of-life survey.

Four key messages!

- 1.** Share your wishes and then formalize them in an advance healthcare directive.
- 2.** Demand good pain management
- 3.** Learn about hospice and seek early referrals
- 4.** Understand that spiritual peace is important for most people whether or not they have a religious affiliation.

Our goal was to capture and make available Idaho specific information so that service providers and policy makers would better understand how to address important issues, remove unnecessary barriers and meet the needs of people in Idaho as they near the end of life and die.

We believe it is important for the public to know what other people in Idaho think about end of life issues and be encouraged to share their wishes for care at the end of life.

*Survey conducted by A Better Way Coalition:
Life on Our Own Terms and Center for the Study of Aging at BSU
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