

Differences in Services Provided to Hospice Patients in Home Health Agencies and Independent Hospice Agencies

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Background

- In 1999, 40% of hospices were free-standing
 - Independent of hospitals, home health agencies (HHA) or skilled nursing facilities
- 33% of hospices were HHA-based

Why Would a HHA Also Be Certified as a Hospice?

- Continuity of care across disease progression
- Extra coverage options, diversified funding sources
- Increased patient roster
- Vehicle for enlisting families & volunteers in patient care
- Direct competition with hospices
- Better image

Medicare Requirements for Agency

Core Hospice Services

- Nursing
- Social services
- Physician services
- Counseling
- Bereavement care
- Volunteers
- Dietary services
- Spiritual care

Home Health Services

- Skilled nursing services
- One of the following:
 - Social services
 - Physical therapy
 - Speech therapy
 - Occupational therapy
 - Home health aide

Objectives

- To describe the differences in agency characteristics between dual-certified and hospice-only agencies
- To compare services offered by dual-certified agencies to those offered by agencies only certified as hospices

Methods for Data Collection

Methods: Population

- Secondary data analysis based on the 2000 National Home and Hospice Care Survey by NCHS
- Population of interest: 15,451 agencies providing home health and hospice care
- Sample: 1,800 agencies
 - 1,478 (82%) of these were in-scope
 - Of these, 1,425 (96%) agreed to participate

Methods:

Data Collection & Weighting

- Stratified sample based on:
 - Type of agency (HHA, hospices, and mixed)
 - Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) status
 - Region (Northeast, Midwest, South, West)
- Questionnaire completed by administrator or person designated by administrator
- Weighting to adjust for probability of sample selection, non-response, and over- or under-sampling of agencies

Methods for Data Analysis

Methods: Data Analysis

- Inclusion criterion for these analyses: “yes” or “pending” to Medicare and/or Medicaid hospice certification
- Dual-certified status: “yes” or “pending” to Medicare and/or Medicaid home health certification
- 760 agencies in data set
 - 367 hospice-only (1,076 with weighting)
 - 393 dual-certified (2,476 with weighting)

Methods: Outcome Variable

- Question: “Does this agency provide any of the following services?”
(yes/no response for each service)

Agency Characteristics

Certification Status

Certification	Hospice-only (N = 1076)	Dual-certified (N = 2476)
Medicare	97.6 %	93.4 %
Pending	0.7 %	1.1%
Medicaid	90.1 %	93.6 %
Pending	1.3 %	1.0%

Profit-Making Status

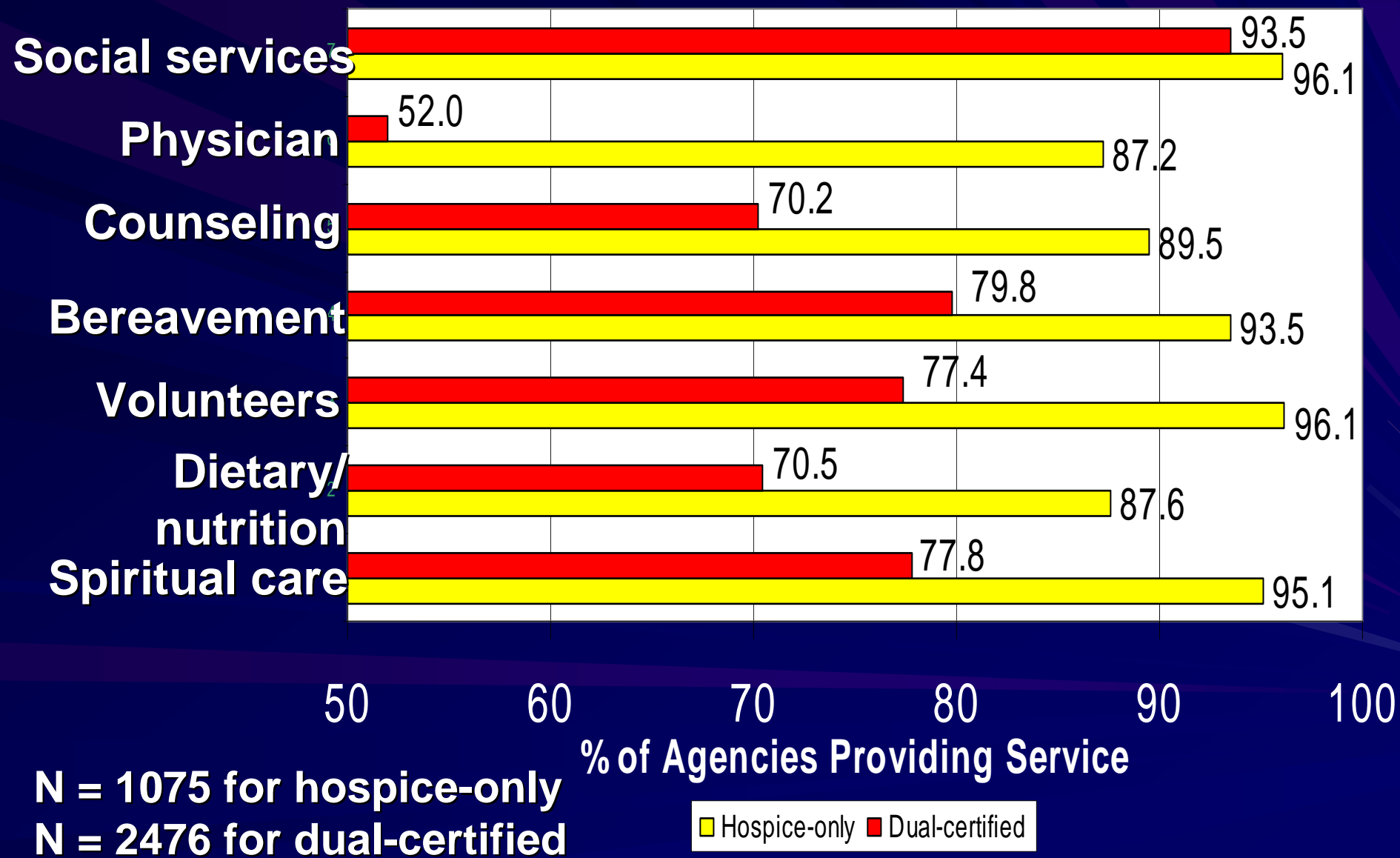
Profit-making status	Hospice-only (N = 1070)	Dual-certified (N = 2447)
Proprietary	26.0 %	25.6 %
Non-profit	74.0 %	74.4 %

Agency Size

Size Variable	Hospice-only	Dual-certified
Total patients	N = 1067	N = 2341
<75	77.2 %	41.0 %
75+	22.8 %	59.4 %
Hospice patients	N = 1020	N = 2245
<30	46.4 %	70.2 %
30+	53.6 %	29.8 %

Services Provided by Agencies

Core Hospice Services



Adjusted Models

■ Fully adjusted model includes:

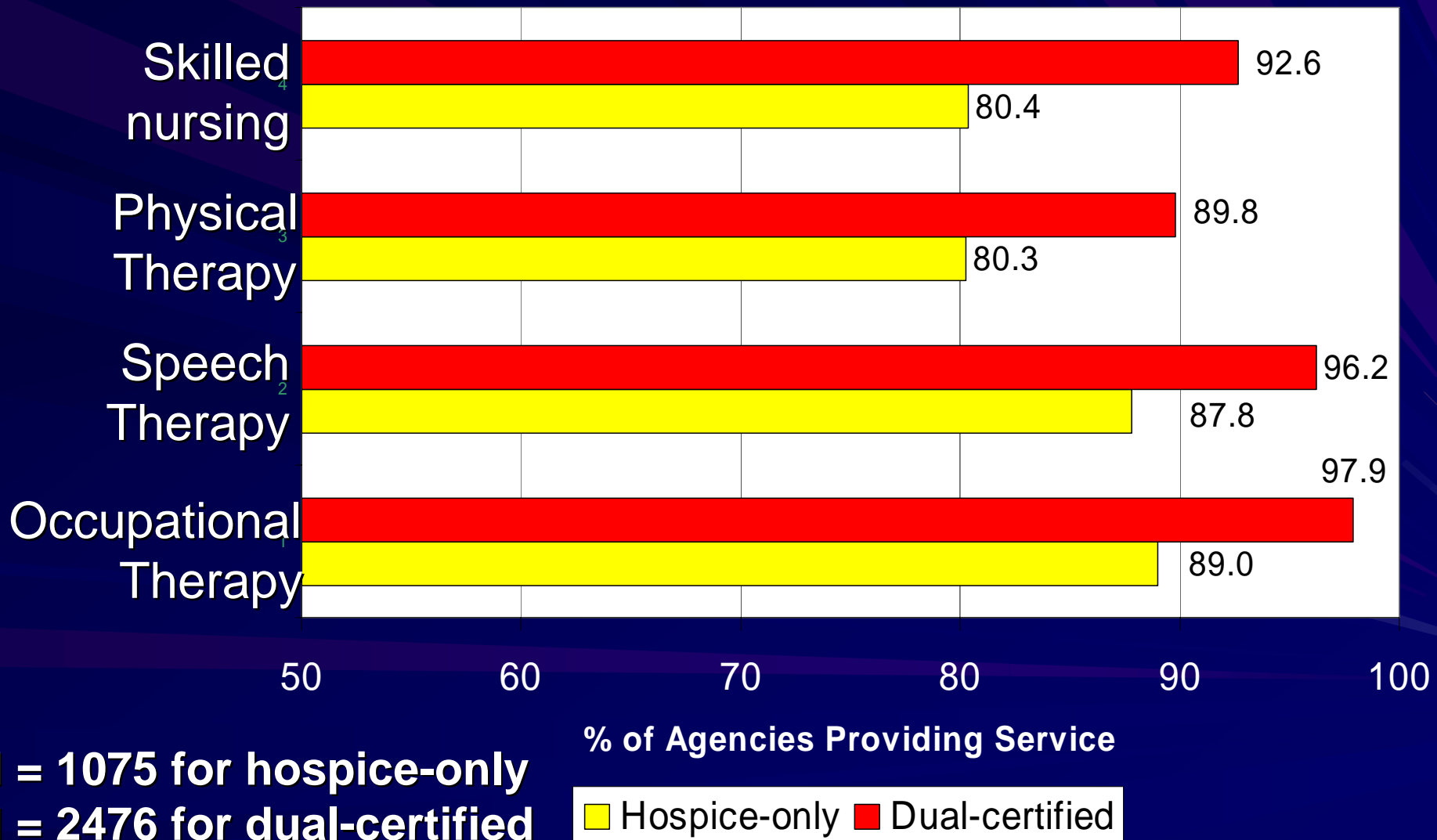
- Medicare and Medicaid hospice certification status
- Profit-making status
- Number of total patients
- Number of hospice patients
- Operated by hospital
- Part of a group
- Region
- MSA status

Too few agencies were operated by HMOs or nursing homes to provide reliable estimates.

Most Core Hospice Services Were Significantly More Common Among Hospice-Only Agencies

Service	Unadjusted		Fully adjusted	
	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI
Social services	1.7	1.2, 2.4	1.4	0.7, 2.7
Physician services	6.3	5.2, 7.7	2.6	2.0, 3.4
Counseling	3.6	2.9, 4.5	3.6	2.5, 5.0
Bereavement care	3.6	2.8, 4.7	3.2	1.6, 6.3
Volunteers	7.3	5.3, 10.1	9.5	5.4, 16.8
Dietary/nutritional services	3.0	2.4, 3.6	2.0	1.5, 2.7
Spiritual care	5.5	4.1, 7.4	2.7	1.6, 4.6

Core Home Health Services



Core Home Health Services Were Significantly More Common Among Dual-Certified Agencies

Service	Unadjusted		Fully Adjusted	
	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI
Skilled nursing services	5.7	4.1, 8.0	8.6	4.9, 15.1
Physical therapy	3.5	2.7, 4.6	10.1	5.8, 17.7
Speech therapy	2.2	1.8, 2.6	2.4	1.8, 3.3
Occupational therapy	3.1	2.5, 3.8	2.0	1.5, 2.7

Implications

- Dual-certified agencies may provide fewer services to their hospice patients
- HHA that become certified as hospices may not be applying the palliative care philosophy
- The different Medicare payment structures for HHA and hospices may be affecting service provision

Future Research

- Patient-level data to adjust for case-mix and to determine what services are actually provided
- Effect of possible changes in services provided since PPS implemented in HHA
- Effect of service differences on patient outcomes
- Effect of changes in hospice patients since 2000