

Facilitating Equitable Access to Palliative and End-Of-Life Care for Underserved Populations in British Columbia: Knowledge Exchange Series (2025)

Insights Specific to:

Justice-Involved Individuals
Living with a
Life-Limiting Illness



How to Cite this Document

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Knowledge Exchange Overview

In Spring 2025, the BC Centre for Palliative Care on behalf of the BC Palliative Care Research Collaborative hosted a three-part virtual **Knowledge Exchange Series** on *facilitating equitable access to palliative and end-of-life care for underserved populations in BC*.

Shaped by research, expert insights, and lived experiences, the series aimed to advance an equity-informed approach to palliative care by sharing stories, highlighting promising practices, strengthening connections between health and community systems, and identifying future directions for policy, practice, and research.

Discussions and activities focused on twelve underserved population groups with limited access to essential palliative and end-of-life care services.

Read the full Summary Report [here](#).

Insights Specific to Justice-Involved Individuals Living with a Life-limiting Illness

Insights from the Literature and Key Informants

To inform discussions about **justice-involved individuals living with a life-limiting illness** during the Knowledge Exchange sessions, a population fact sheet was developed. The fact sheet summarizes key themes from a literature review and insights gathered from key informants through an online survey—highlighting experiences, opportunities, facilitators, and barriers to care.

View the population fact sheet [here](#). A preview is shown below.

Facilitating equitable access to palliative and end-of-life care for underserved populations
Knowledge Exchange and Learning Series
hosted by the BC Palliative Care Research Collaborative

Population Factsheet: Justice-involved individuals living with life-limiting illness

This population comprises individuals who are incarcerated in accessing palliative care. Individuals belonging to this group face significant barriers to accessing care, as prisons were not designed to provide long-term or specialized healthcare. Challenges associated with providing care to incarcerated populations can be mitigated by involving community organizations, peer support workers, and enhancing the use of release policies.

The information in this factsheet is organized according to the session it is of relevance to. The included literature was identified through a systematic search for review papers conducted in February 2024. The environmental scan survey was conducted in January-February 2025, and was completed by 57 key informants across British Columbia.

Session 1: The lived experience of access to palliative and end-of-life care for underserved populations

What does the literature say?
Incarcerated populations experience unique challenges, such as:
Disparities in health outcomes

Insights from the Knowledge Exchange Series

Due to limited capacity and participants' focus on other populations, the experiences of this group in accessing palliative care were not discussed during the Knowledge Exchange Series. As a result, no insights specific to this population are available.

**For similar insights on other underserved populations,
visit the BC Centre for Palliative Care website [here](#).**



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