

Journal Watch – Administration & Immigration and EOL – November 2017

Article:

Association Between Immigrant Status and End-of-Life Care in Ontario, Canada.

Yarnell CJ, et al.

JAMA. 2017 Oct 17;318(15):1479-1488

Article link: DOI: [10.1001/jama.2017.14418](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2017.14418)

Review:

Strengths:

- Quantifies one aspect of cultural differences
- Palliative care population, large n, Canadian province
- Corroborates qualitative research and anecdotal experiences

Weaknesses:

- Immigrant and resident cohorts differ significantly (Age. Socioeconomic status, geography) --> confounding
- Not adjusted for disease severity
- Big picture data

Relevance to Palliative Care:

We provide palliative care to many cultures daily. There is a subjective understanding that different cultures have different patterns of behaviour, perspectives, and decisions when it comes to end-of-life decision making. This research helps quantify that. It also provides a foundation from which we can explore ways to improve palliative care outcomes for newly immigrated people; for example, by increasing availability of translation services and “cultural brokers”.