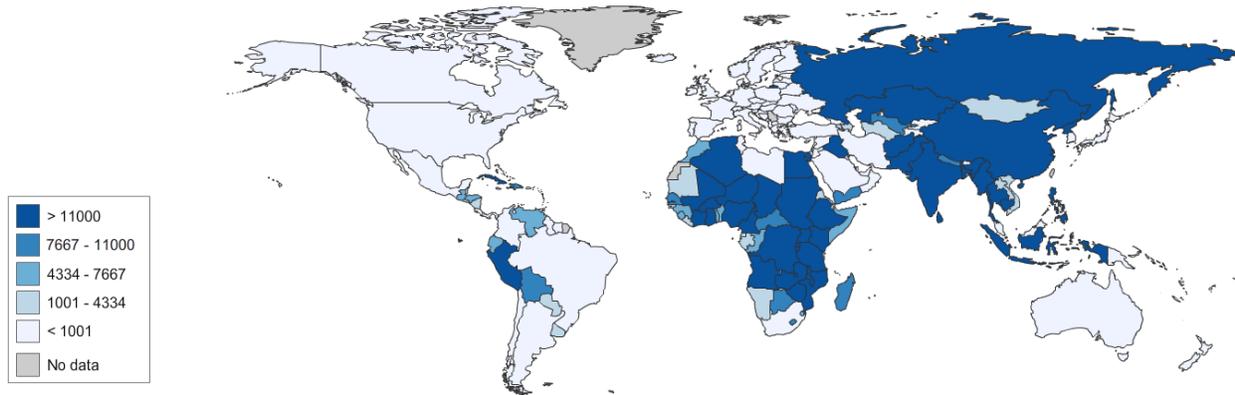


SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

Untreated deaths in pain in 2011



Globally, 7.3 million people die of HIV or cancer with moderate to severe pain each year.

At least 2.7 million of these deaths in pain were untreated in 2011. More than 99% of these untreated deaths in pain are in low and middle-income countries. Six countries are home to 48% of the untreated deaths in pain in the world.

- India: 24%
- Russian Federation: 7%
- Nigeria: 7%
- Zimbabwe: 4%
- China: 6%
- Ethiopia: 3%

Sub-Saharan Africa has the greatest unmet need for pain relief: 1.16 million people die each year of HIV or cancer in untreated pain

There is a great disparity in access to pain relief by income level

<u>Low and middle-income countries</u>	<u>US, Canada, UK, Australia</u>
70% of cancer deaths	11% of cancer deaths
99% of HIV deaths	<1% of HIV deaths
7% of medicinal opioids	69% of medicinal opioids

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the prevalence of moderate to severe pain among people with HIV or cancer?

Studies suggest that approximately 50% of people dying of HIV and 80% of people dying of cancer experience moderate to severe pain (1). Prevalence of pain among people living with less advanced disease is more variable.

What other indications require opioids for pain treatment?

Other indications include trauma and burns, myocardial infarction, sickle cell disease, and childbirth. However these indications are not routinely and standardly collected across countries and duration of treatment is generally shorter for these indications relative to HIV and cancer.

How costly are opioids like morphine?

Morphine is actually very inexpensive and is not under patent. In Uganda for instance, morphine costs about \$0.25 for a daily dose of liquid morphine. Imported tablets can be more expensive, running about \$1 for a daily dose. Mark-ups along the supply chain can result in higher prices for patients in some settings.

Is there a limited supply of opioids like morphine?

Morphine and other opioids are produced from poppy. The global supply is sufficient to meet the need and there is no problem with supply of the raw materials (2).

Is pain treatment complex?

As in all clinical care, there are challenging cases. However, the World Health Organization has developed the three-step analgesic ladder, which provides a simple algorithm for treating pain. This approach is effective for 80-90% of cancer patients (3).

Is morphine an essential medicine?

Yes. It is on the World Health Organization's model essential medicines list and on most national essential medicines lists. Countries that have signed the 1961 Convention are obligated to make narcotics available for medical and scientific purposes (4).

Why is access to pain relief limited in low and middle-income countries?

The situation is different in different countries, but the key challenges include legal and regulatory limitations, inadequate training of health workers, weak health systems, and misperceptions about pain and its treatment among clinicians and patients.

Where can I learn more?

Visit our website: www.TreatThePain.org to learn more.

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