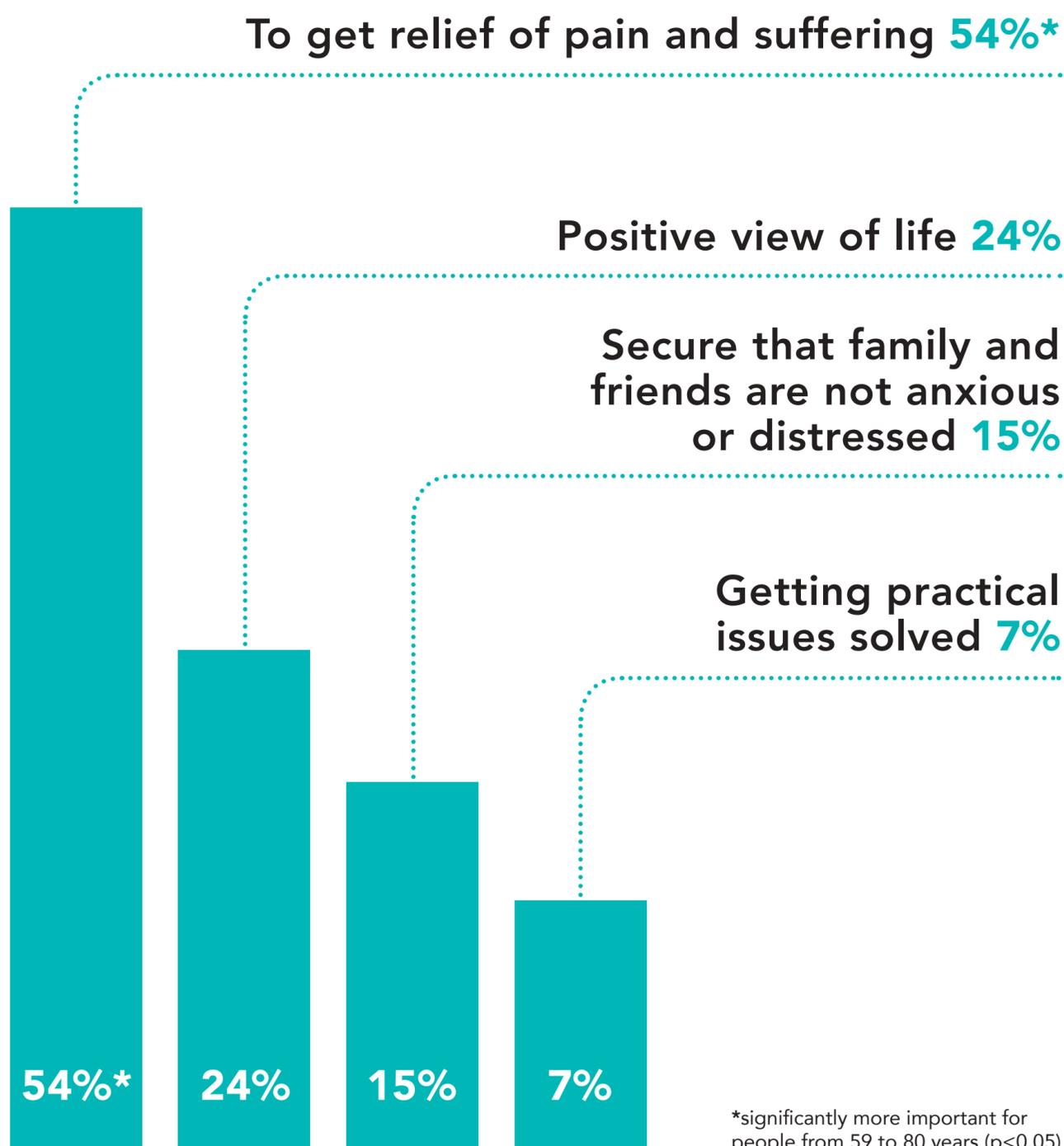


In case of life-limiting illness

What is most important for you?



CONCLUSION: A sample of the public in Norway, especially in older age, value relief of pain and suffering as most important for them in case of serious life-limiting illness. Identifying and reflecting the public's current perception and expectation towards palliative care is a key factor for educational strategies to empower individuals and to involve communities in future palliative care.

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BACKGROUND: Research suggests that there is lack of knowledge and mostly negative perceptions towards palliative care in the public. An aging population and its associated increase in the number of palliative patients urges us to explore the public's understanding of the concept of palliative care. This is important to inform policymakers and to target educational strategies. Resulting public education needs to facilitate regional and cultural characteristics as well as challenges that may be associated with demographic details.

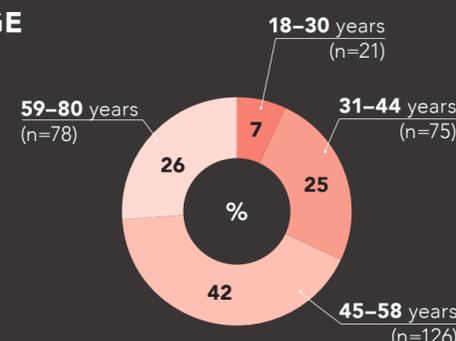
AIM: To explore approaches of the public towards a palliative disease and check if the respondents' priorities are associated with gender, age and level of education.

METHODS: A paper survey with closed questions was sent to a sample of the public by random distribution among employees in the eight municipalities in Romsdal, Norway (n=530). A question about what is most important in case of serious illness, like cancer, with limited life expectancy included four main topics; view of life, symptom management, practical support and relation to family and friends. We asked the participants to choose their highest priority. Descriptive statistical analysis was used for demographic data and preferences, while Chi-square test was applied for association analyses.

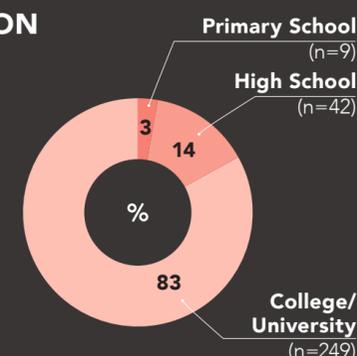
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

(n = 300, response rate 57%)

AGE



EDUCATION



GENDER



Centre for Health Innovation
 Helseinnovasjonssenteret

Molde University College
 Høgskolen i Molde

Centre for Development of Institutional and Home care services
 Utviklingscenter for sykehjem og hjemmetjenester
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