

# Cancer Pain and the Under Treatment Among Minorities



CANCER PAIN IS A COMMON, BUT OFTEN OVERLOOKED CONSEQUENCE OF CANCER.

ABOUT **1,660,290**

NEW CANCER CASES ARE EXPECTED TO BE DIAGNOSED IN 2013.



ONE OF EVERY THREE PATIENTS UNDERGOING CANCER TREATMENT EXPERIENCES PAIN.

## CANCER PAIN TREATMENT AND HISPANIC PATIENTS

Although the data suggests recent improvements in analgesic prescribing practices for minorities, including Hispanic cancer patients, the **majority of patients reported high levels of pain** and limited pain relief from analgesic medications.

Physicians underestimate pain severity for **64%** of Hispanic patients.

Inadequate pain assessment, patient reluctance to report pain, and lack of staff time were perceived as barriers to pain management.



**Religious beliefs and cultural stoicism** within the Hispanic community may also be a contributing factor to not verbally expressing the degree of pain patients' experience.



Hispanic patients also have a **fear of becoming addicted to prescription painkillers.**

## TALKING TO YOUR DOCTOR

To learn more:

- **PartnersAgainstPain.com** features tools and information that may help patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals better understand and manage pain.
- **CancerSupportCommunity.org** offers tools to help eliminate barriers and additional resources.
- **The Cancer Support Community Helpline**, 1-888-793-9355 connects you with a counselor for further assistance.

