

Highest Medicare Hospice Utilization Rates Posted in CY 2025!

*By Cordt T. Kassner, PhD, VP Data Science & Research 1520ai and CEO
Hospice Analytics; 7/20/26*

Medicare hospice utilization reached a record high of **51.9%** in calendar year (CY) 2025, according to preliminary analysis by Cordt T. Kassner, PhD. Utilization measures the share of Medicare deaths that occurred under hospice care – a consistent, conservative metric used in annual reporting. This uptick reflects a strong post-COVID rebound in access to end-of-life care.

States leading the nation in hospice utilization (all >60%) include:

- **Utah:** 67.7%
- **Rhode Island:** 62.1%
- **Florida:** 60.2%
- **Wisconsin:** 60.0%

States with the lowest hospice utilization rates include **New York** (27.6%), **District of Columbia** (31.5%), and **Alaska** (33.1%).

As previously published¹, hospice utilization serves as a key indicator of both **access** and **quality** in end-of-life care. These trends highlight opportunities for continued growth in hospice services, particularly in underserved regions. Data-driven insights like these remain essential for improving care for patients and families nationwide.

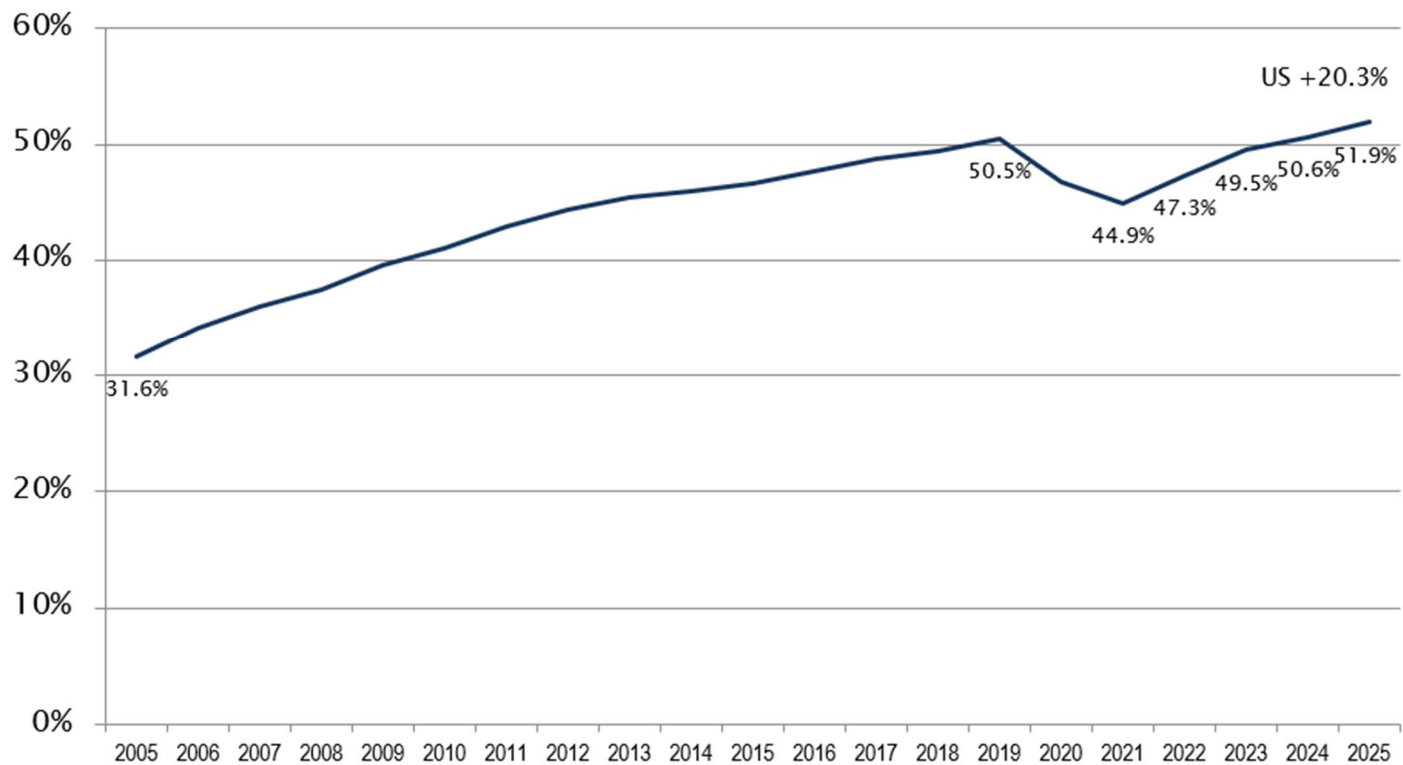
Please see Graphs 1 and 2 on the following pages for additional detail.

¹ Abernethy AP, Kassner CT, Whitten E, Bull J, Taylor DH. Death Service Ratio: A Measure of Hospice Utilization and Cost Impact. J Pain Symptom Manage 2011; 41(#6 June):e5-6.

Graph 1: 2005-2025 National Hospice Utilization

2005-2025 National Hospice Utilization 20-Year Trends

Highest national hospice utilization rate on record!

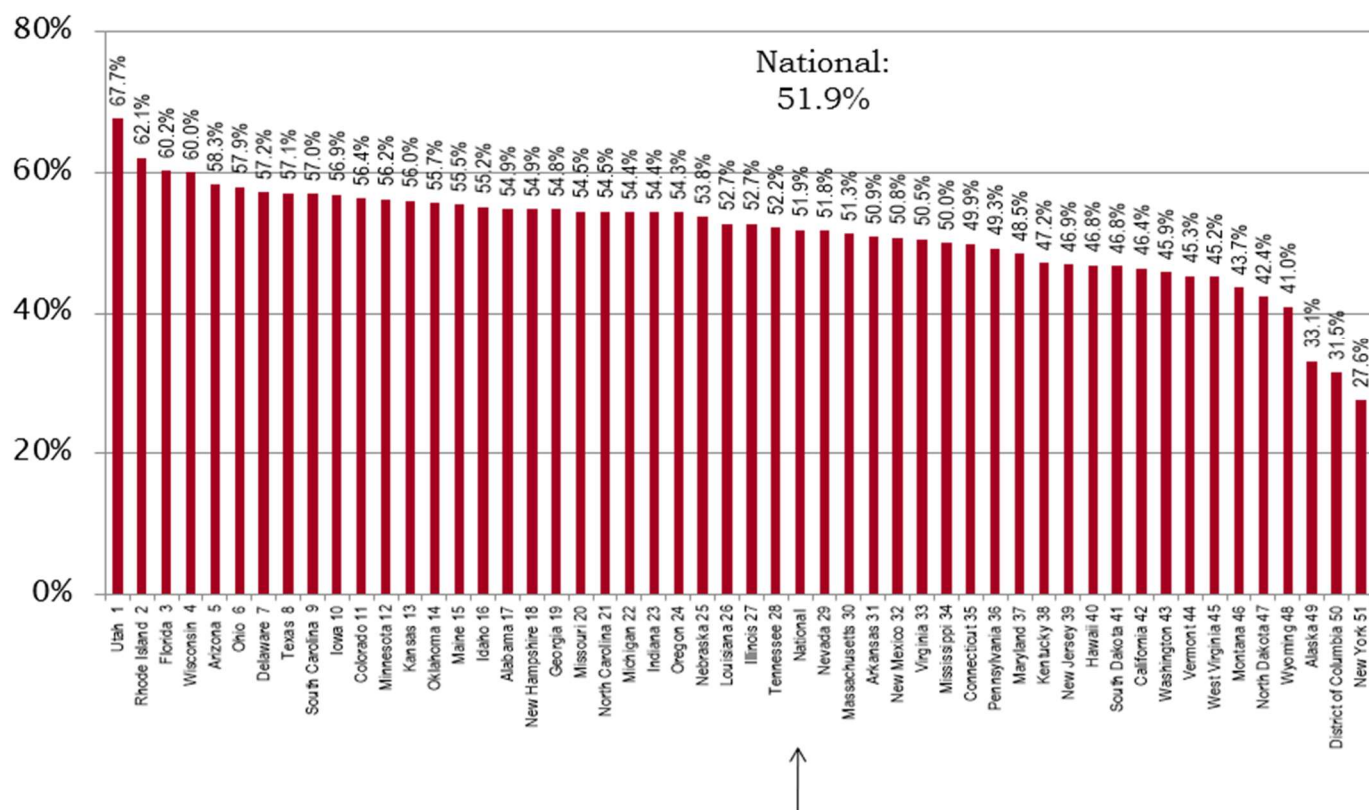


► Note: Hospice Utilization= Medicare Hospice Deaths / Total Medicare Deaths. Preliminary data 7/20/26.

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Graph 2: 2025 Hospice Utilization by State

2025 Hospice Utilization x State (Medicare Hospice Deaths / Total Medicare Deaths)



Note: Preliminary data 7/20/26.

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