



September 11, 2018

IAHPC Oral Statement for WHO Regional Committee for Europe, 68th session

5. Policy and technical topics

(a) Launch of the European health report 2018

http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/379862/who-european-health-report-2018-eng.pdf

IAHPC would like to draw member states' attention to the problematic nature of the phrase "premature mortality" used several times in the report. The term effectively eliminates persons older than 69 from health policy planning. This policy strategy results from lack of disaggregated data, so IAHPC urges member states to collect the age disaggregate data!

Further, we point out that there is no mention of palliative care anywhere in the report, although there are plenty of references to health promotion and prevention strategies, as well as treatments, maternal child mortality, and an entire chapter on Universal Coverage.

Palliative care is an essential service under UHC according to WHO, and properly integrated with primary care can significantly reduce health system and out of pocket costs, an important focus of the report. Properly integrated, palliative care can help countries meet Health 2020 Target 5 indicators.

The report cites "The modest treatment success rates for new pulmonary TB cases: 77% by 2015," which also signals the need for adequate palliative care for patients with TB, in addition to HIV/AIDS and the chronic and non-communicable diseases affecting entire populations, but most especially older persons and those over 69, whose mortality is preventable **and** premature.

We thank the Secretariat for including older persons, but this section could have included their right to palliative and long term care, considered by the Ninth Open Ended Working Group on Aging in July and endorsed by the Council of Europe.