

Cancer patients' organisation participation in health policy decision-making: a snapshot/cluster analysis of the EU-28 countries.

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OBJECTIVES:

Even though patient involvement in health policy decision-making is well documented, studies evaluating the degree and impact of this participation are scarce. This is even more conspicuous in the case of cancer. There is evidence showing that patients with the same type of cancer and at the same stage of the disease will receive different treatments in different countries. Therefore, it is crucial to assess the degree of patient participation in health policy decision-making across Europe, as it may result in health inequalities across countries. In a response to this research call, the present study aimed to provide a snapshot of cancer patients' organisation (CPO) participation in health policy processes in European Union (EU)-28 countries.

SETTING:

CPOs from the EU-28 countries.

PARTICIPANTS:

Primary and secondary outcome measures: information about participants' sociodemographic characteristics and their involvement in their CPO was collected as well as data about the CPO. A 17-item index containing questions about the type and impact of participation in various facets of health policy decision-making was used to assess the degree of CPOs participation in health policy decision-making processes and its impact.

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KEYWORDS:

cancer patient organizations; health policy decision making; patient participation

