

# The Need for More and Better Palliative Care in Muslim-Majority Countries

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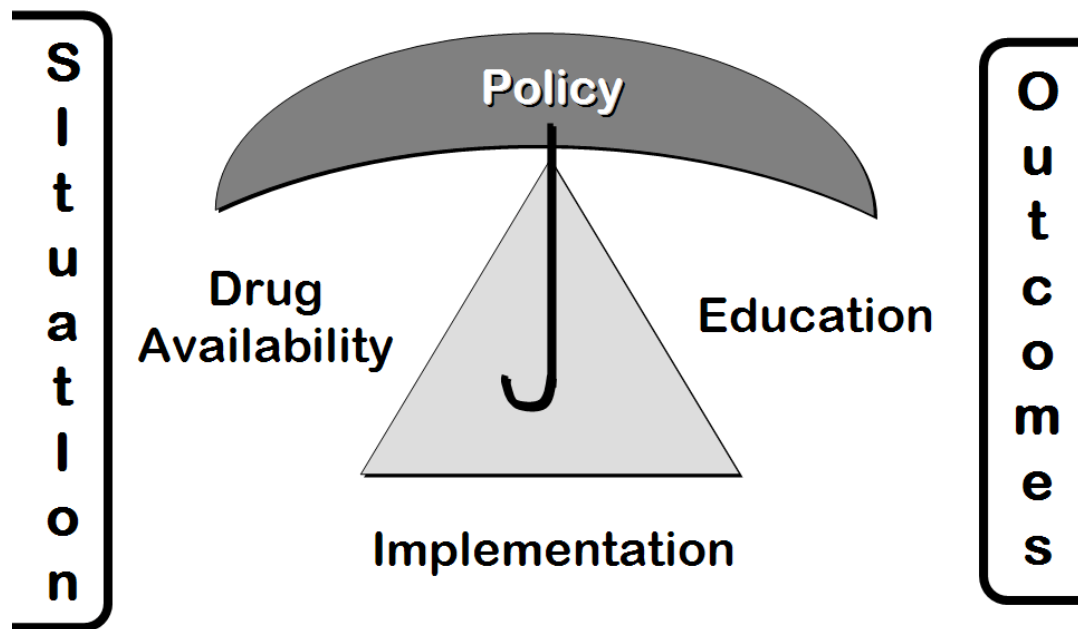
# The 3 Most Significant Features of Cancer in LMICs

1. Late Diagnosis
2. Late Diagnosis
3. Late Diagnosis



“Where can I go in this desert to find out about how to prevent cancer or detect it early enough so that it won’t kill me?”

## More & Better Palliative Care Needed!



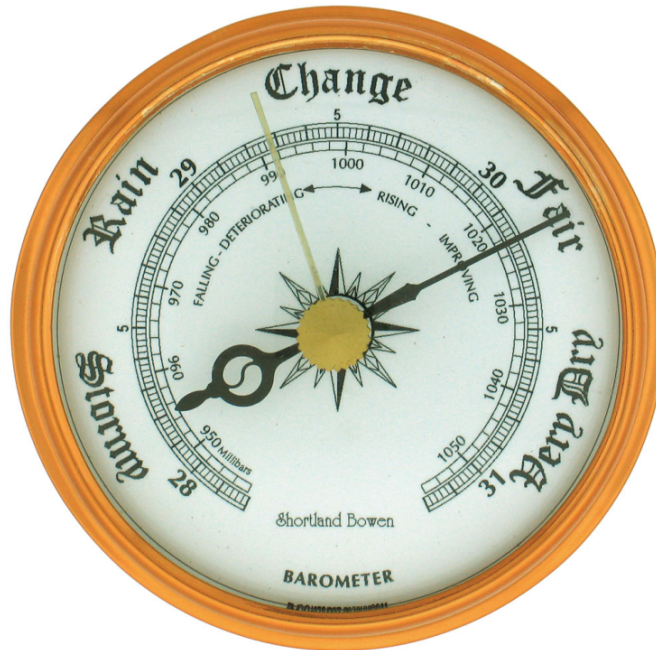
Public Health Model for Palliative Care

# Pain as a Barometer of Palliative Care



Pain control is NOT synonymous with palliative care, but pain control is a useful barometer on palliative care programs.

*“A palliative care program cannot exist unless it is based on a rational drug policy including...ready access of suffering patients to opioids.” (WHO, 2002)*



World Health  
Organization

# WPCA Report on Palliative Care Services

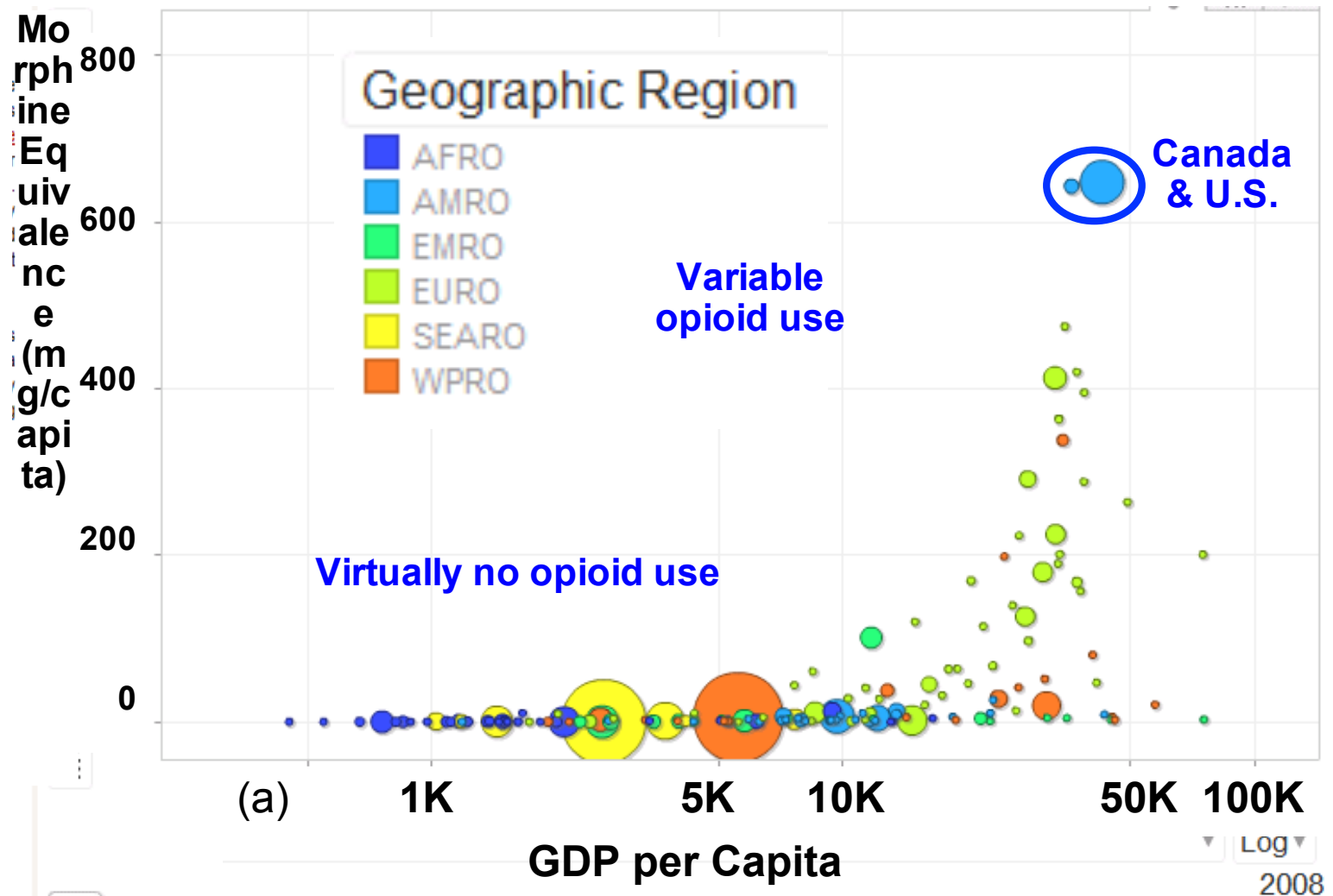
(October 2011)

## The Bad News:

- Of the world's 234 countries, 98 (42%) do not have even one hospice or palliative care services available to seriously ill people and their families.
- Only 20 countries globally (8.5%) provide palliative care services that are fully integrated with wider healthcare services.
- 80% of the world's population live in countries with no or low access to medications to treat moderate to severe pain.

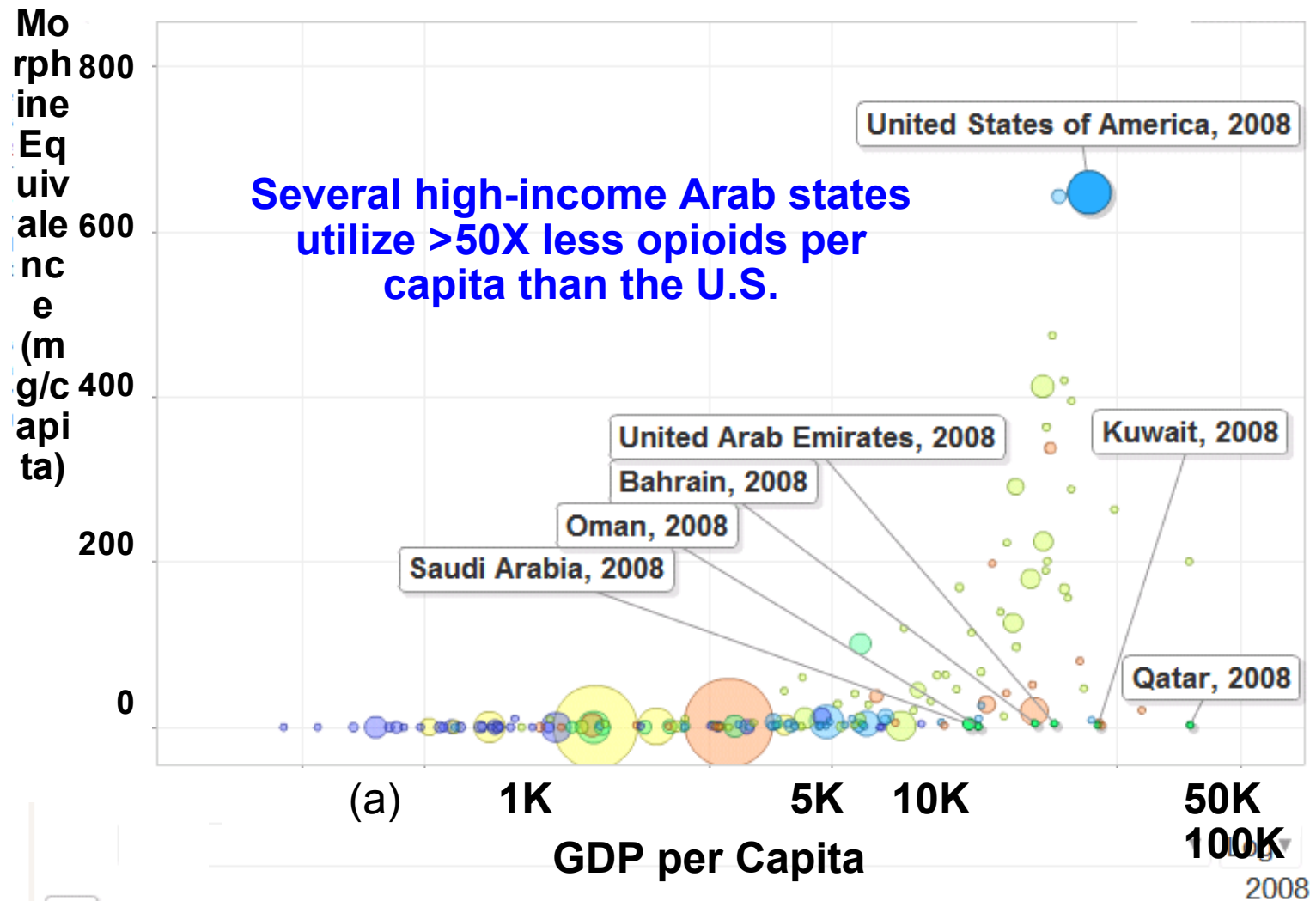
# Opioid Consumption as a Function of GDP

(Morphine Equivalence, 2008)

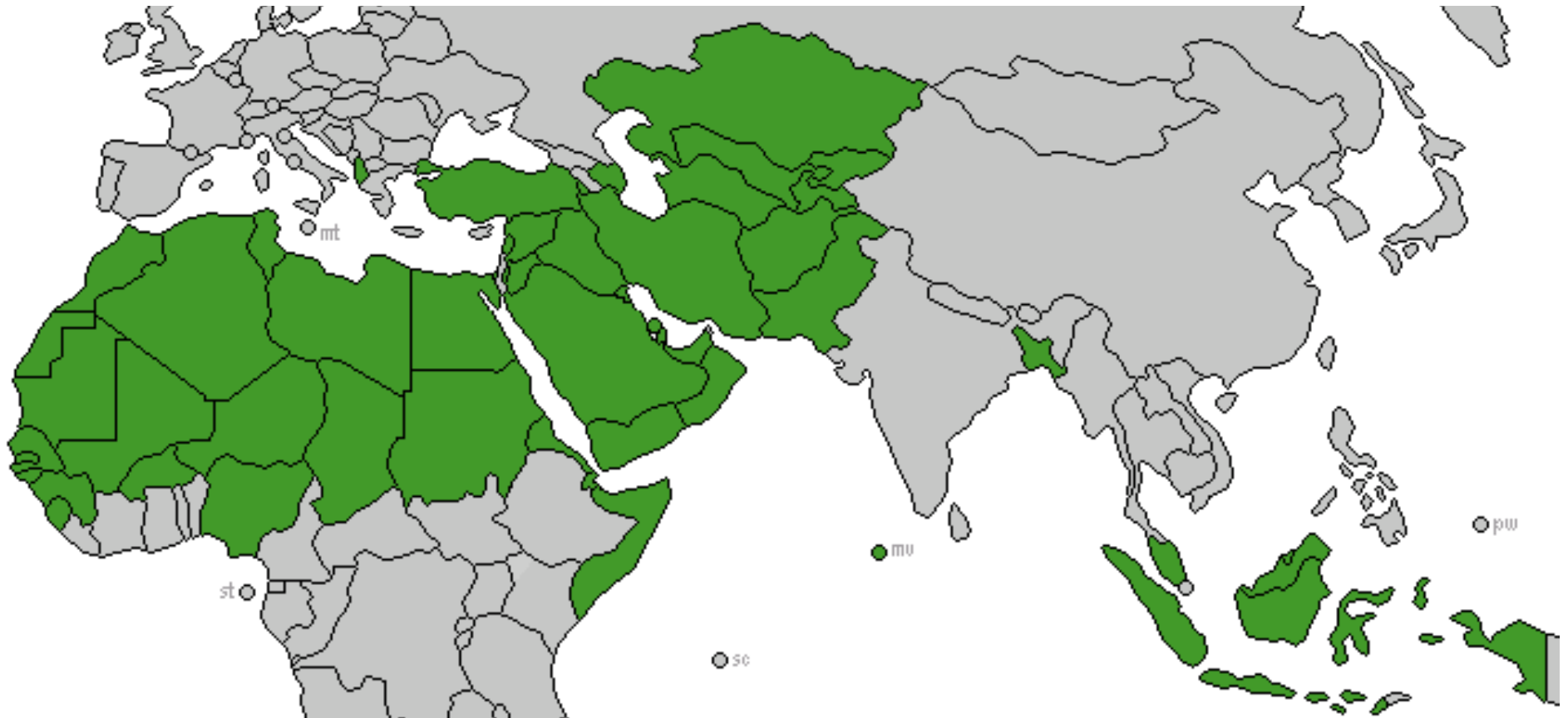


# Opioid Consumption as a Function of GDP

## (Morphine Equivalence, 2008)



# Muslim Majority Countries (MMC's)

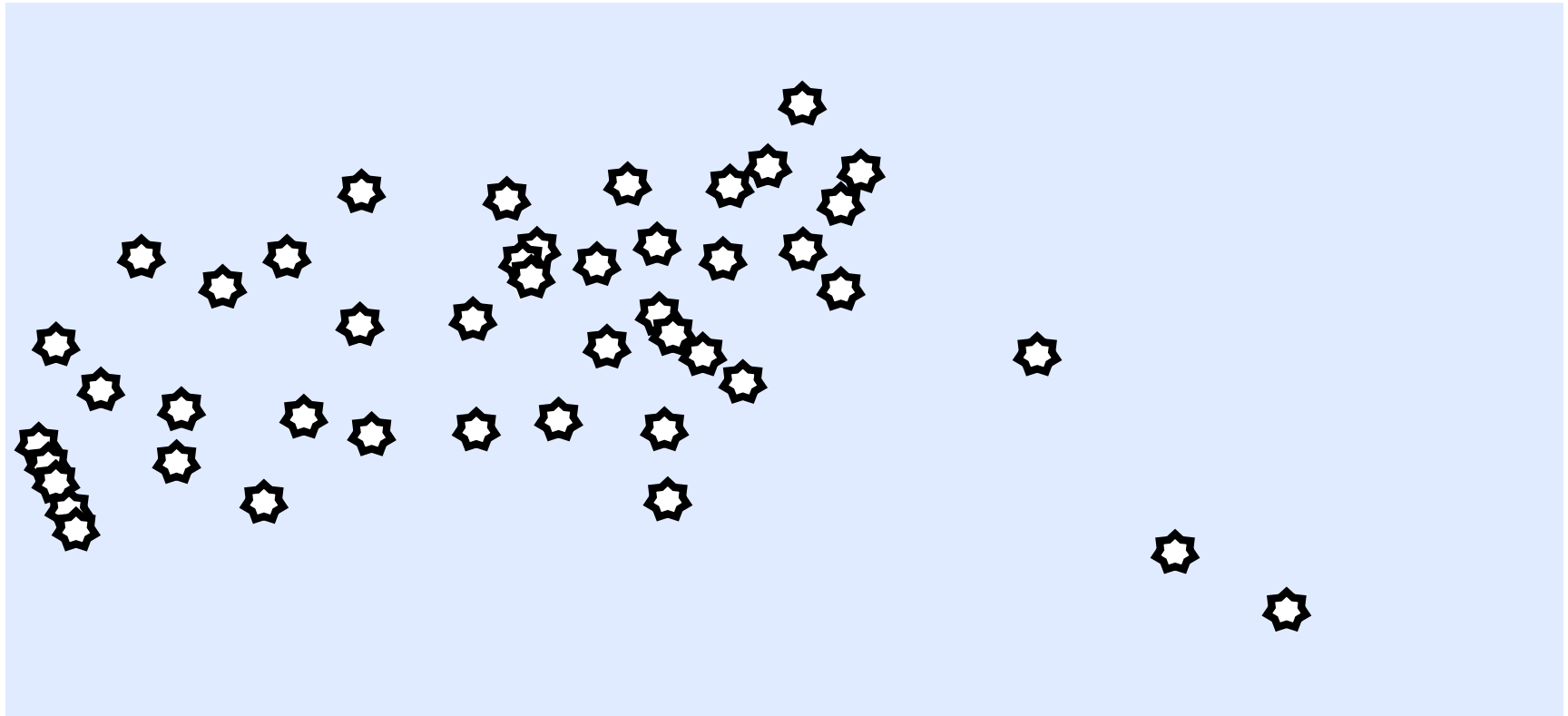


The GDP's of MMC's range from \$600 per person in Somalia to >\$100,000 per person in Kuwait (Note: U.S. GDP per capita = ~\$48,000).



# Opioid Use

(Morphine equivalents; mg/capita; minus methadone; 2008)

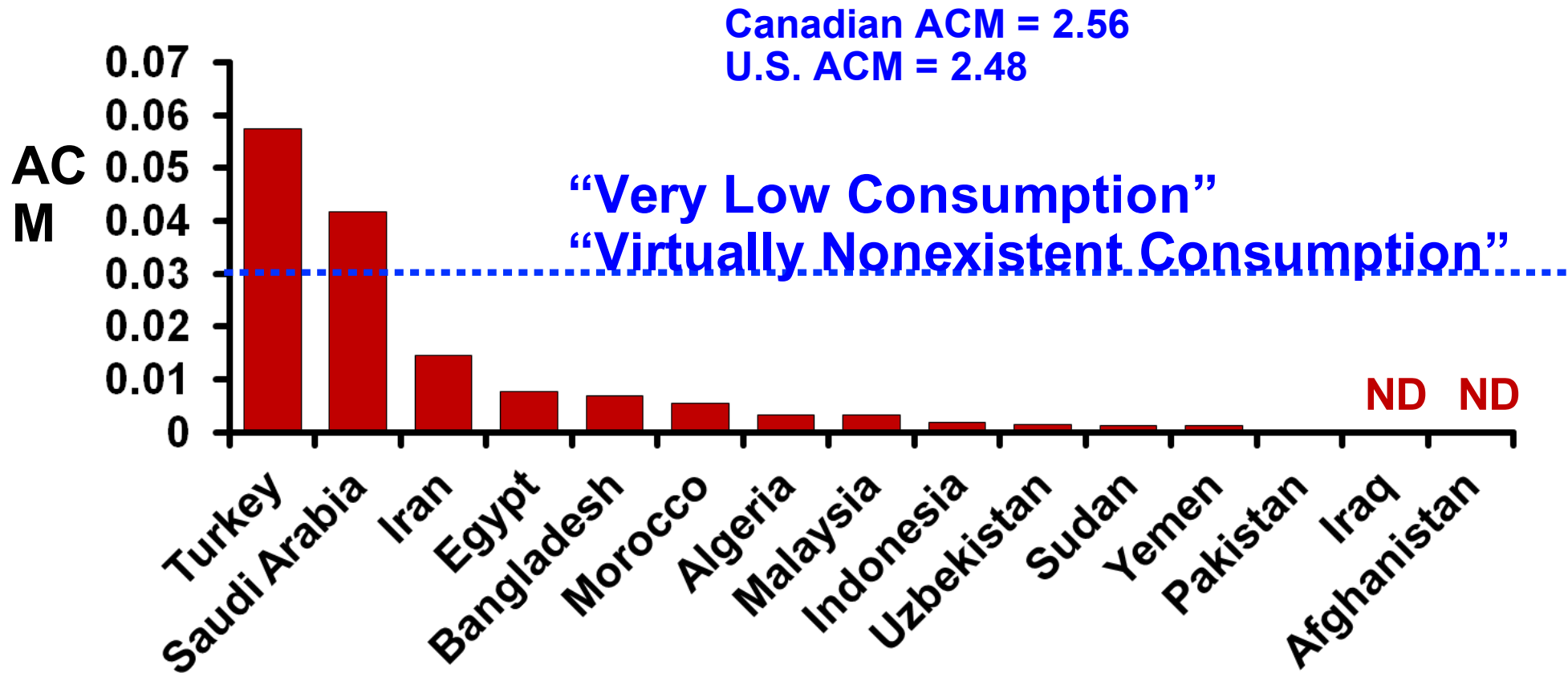


The U.S. uses >50-fold more opioids per capita than Turkey and ~12,000-fold more than Ethiopia.

☆ = MMC



# Morphine Use in the 15 Largest MMC's Adequacy of Consumption Measure (ACM)



Moderate Consumption =  $ACM > 0.3$  and  $< 1.0$

Low Consumption =  $ACM > 0.1$  and  $< 0.3$

Very Low Consumption =  $ACM < 0.1$

Virtually Nonexistent Consumption =  $ACM < 0.03$

# Level of Palliative Care Development

4

# Distribution of Muslim-majority Countries via the Typology of the International Observatory on ELC

(data from Wright et al., 2008; compilation in Aljawi & Harford, 2012)

## 1. No known activity

Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Guinea, Libya, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Somalia, Syria, Turkmenistan, Western Sahara, Yemen

## 2. Capacity building

Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uzbekistan

## 3. Localized provision

Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, United Arab Emirates

## 4. Approaching integration

Malaysia

No  
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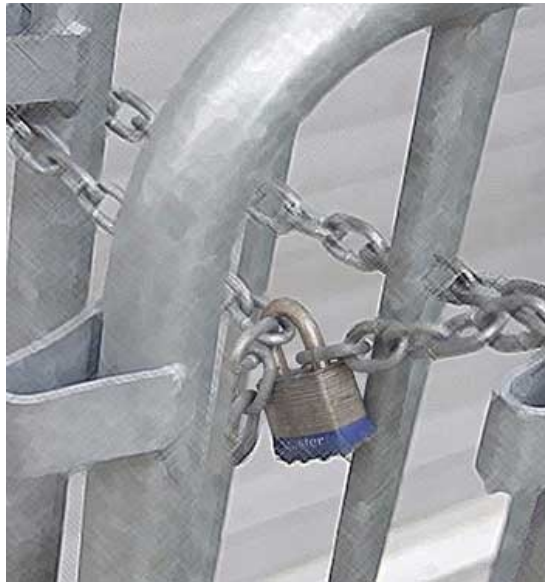
# Why is opioid use so low?

## Barriers\* to accessing oral morphine:

- Excessively strict national drug laws and regulations;
- Fear of addiction;
- Poorly developed health care systems;
- Lack of knowledge (in patients, families, healthcare providers, and policymakers/regulators)

2006 Survey of Health care workers, and hospice/PC staff in Asia, Africa and Latin America

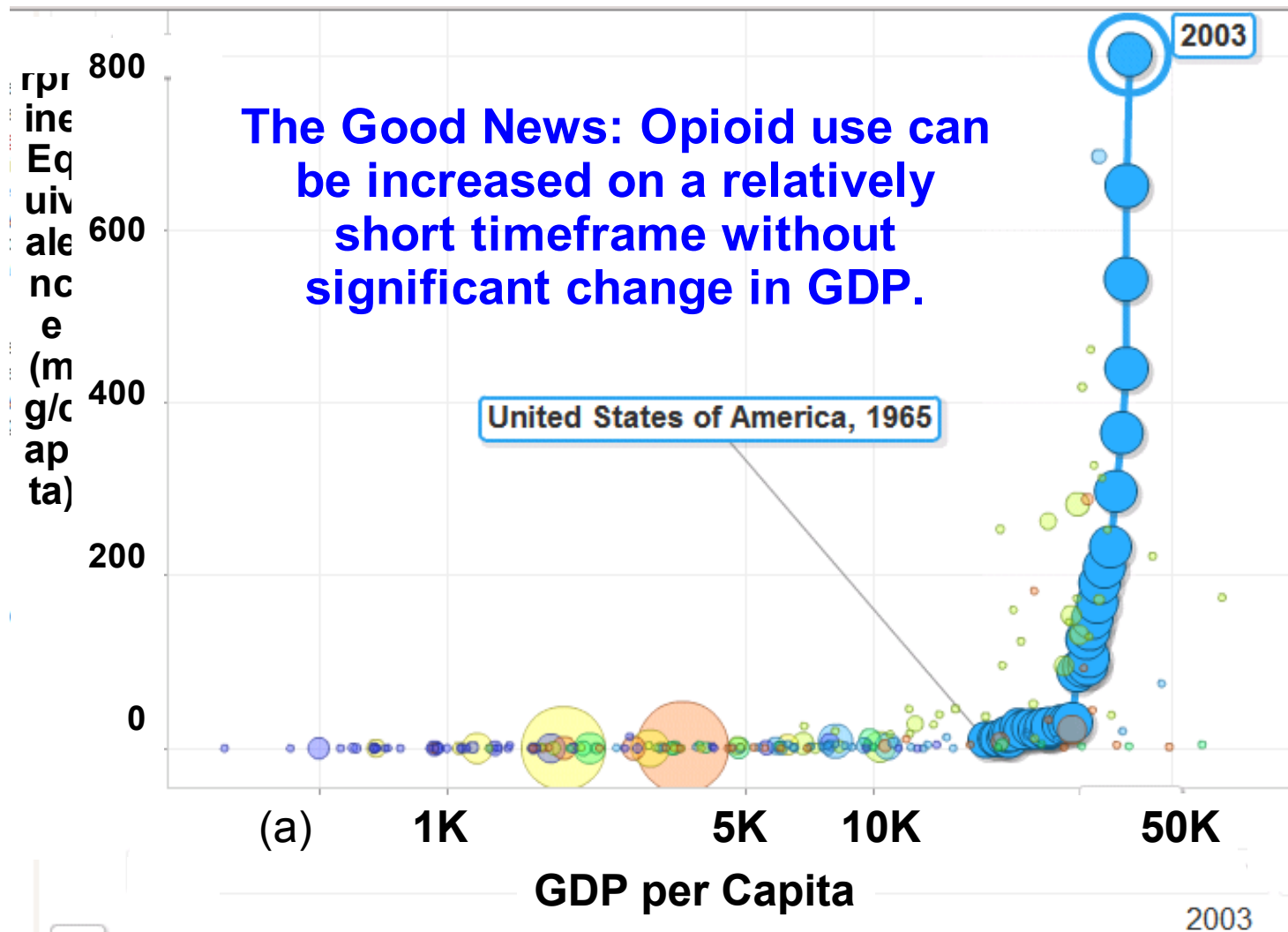
**Cultural and religious issues can also have an impact on palliative care.**



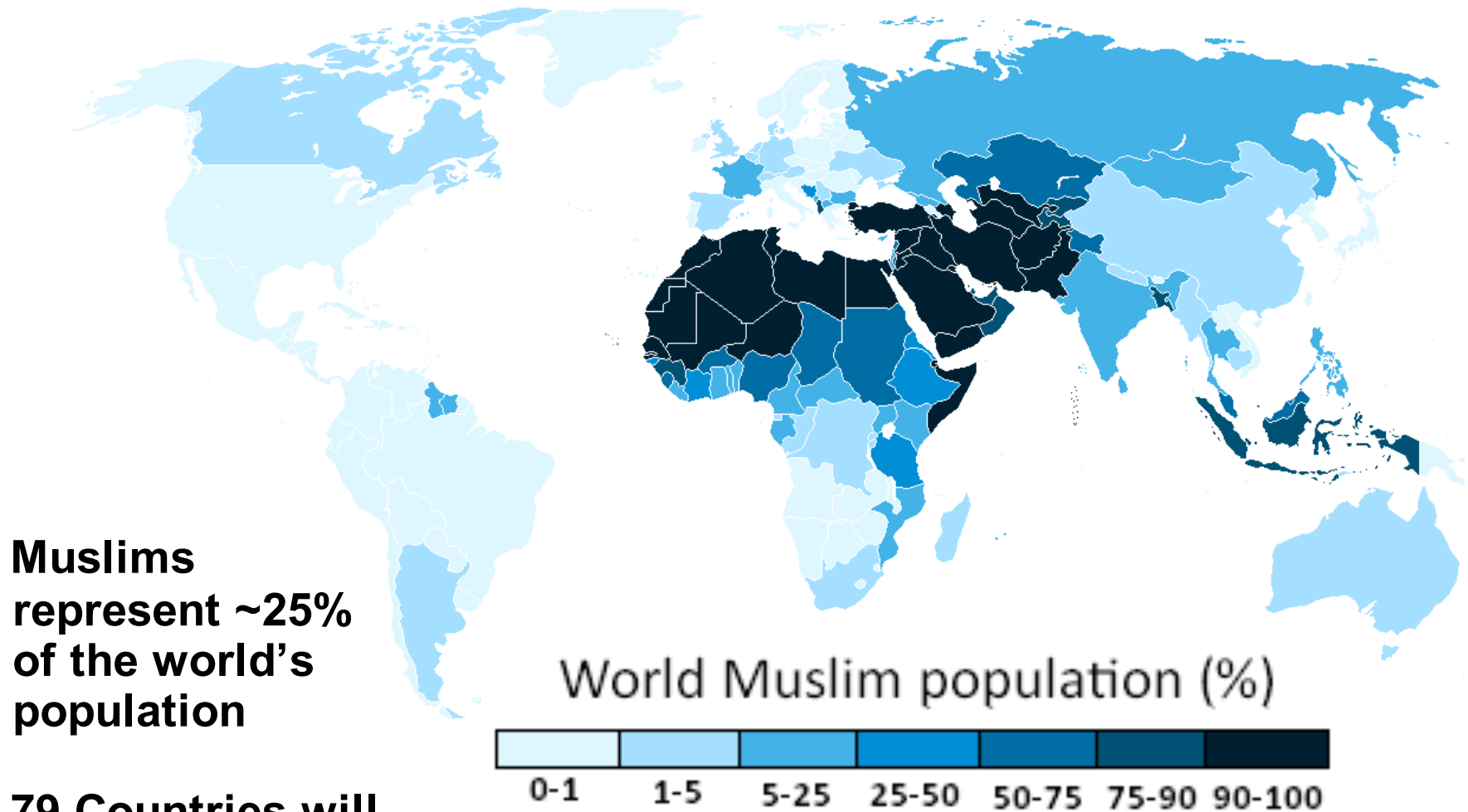
A report for World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2007  
Published by Help the Hospices for the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance



# Increase in Morphine Equivalence in the U.S. (1965-2003)



# Muslim Population of the World by Percentage of Each Country That are Muslim



Muslims represent ~25% of the world's population

79 Countries will have >1 million Muslims by 2030

*Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life (2009)*

köszönöm !תודה dĕkuji  
mahalo 고맙습니다  
*thank you*  
merci 谢谢 danke  
Ευχαριστώ شکرا  
どうもありがとう gracias

**For more details on any aspect of  
the presentation, contact:**

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## **References:**

**Aljawi DM, Harford JB: Palliative Care in the Muslim-Majority Countries: The Need for More and Better Care, *Contemporary and Innovative Practice in Palliative Care*, Esther Chang and Amanda Johnson (Eds.), ISBN: 978-953-307-986-8, InTech, (2012)**

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**Harford JB, Aljawi DM: The need for more and better palliative care for Muslim patients. *Palliative and Supportive Care*, Available on CJO 2012  
doi:10.1017/S1478951512000053**