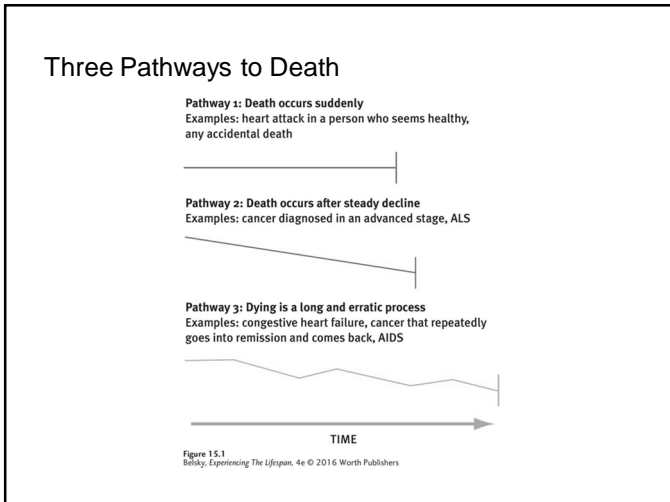


- ### In This Chapter
- Setting the Context
 - A Short History of Death
 - The Dying Person
 - The Health-Care System
 - The Dying Person: Taking Control of How We Die



A Short History of Dying

<p>Death as a natural part of life (eighteenth and nineteenth century)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No medicine People died quickly of infectious diseases.• Dying was familiar It was routine event at <i>every stage of life</i> and a typical part of the community.• Later, due to fears of disease, death became more removed from the community.	<p>Death is vigorously addressed by doctors (early twentieth century)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modern medicine conquers infectious diseases, moving death to the end of the lifespan.• Dying moved to hospitals, far from view.• Result was that dying is a strange, frightening "health-care-managed" event.	<p>Death awareness movement (late 1960s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talking about death becomes acceptable.• Thanatology (study of death and dying) classes became the rage on university campuses.• Doctors were more willing to talk about cancer.
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Cultural Variations on a Theme

- The Hmong – Asian population that migrated to North America after Vietnam War
 - Believed dying could “unlock the gate of evil spirits”
 - When death becomes imminent, family gathers around loved one
 - After death, the deceased is, prepared to be viewed
 - If death occurs in a hospital, family is allowed the opportunity to mourn person

Kübler-Ross's Stages of Dying

- **Elizabeth Kübler-Ross published *On Death and Dying* in 1969 and delineated stage theory of dying**
- Kübler-Ross found
 - Open communication is important. Those who are diagnosed with a terminal illness should discuss their condition.
 - Dying people pass through five emotional stages.

Kübler-Ross's Five Emotions Regarding Death and Dying

- Denial
- Anger
- Bargaining
- Depression
- Acceptance



Can you characterize each stage?

Problems with Kübler-Ross's Theory

- **Problems with theory**
 - Not all terminally ill patients want to discuss their situation
 - Not every culture feels it is appropriate to openly discuss death
 - Not every person passes through distinctive stages adjusting to death

The More Realistic View: Many Differing Emotions;
Wanting Life to Go On

- Dying people differentially experience many emotions in unpredictable stages
- The elderly typically report no fear of death
- Off-time deaths, such as in youth, are particularly painful for the person and survivors

In Search of a