

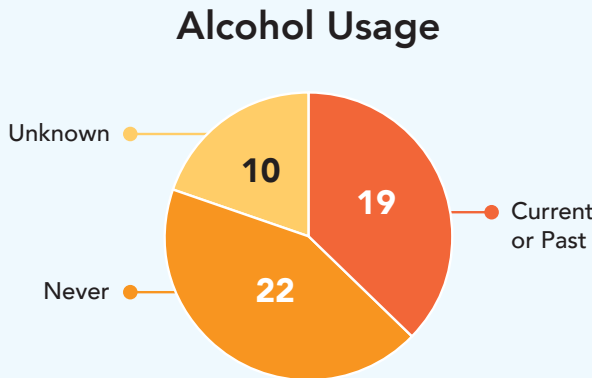
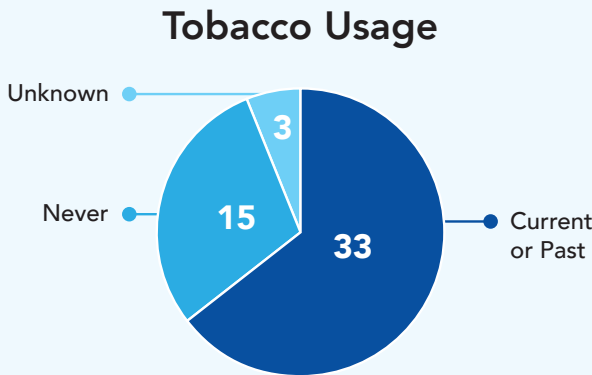
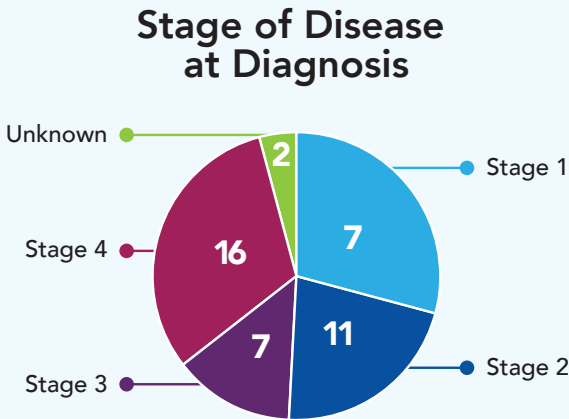
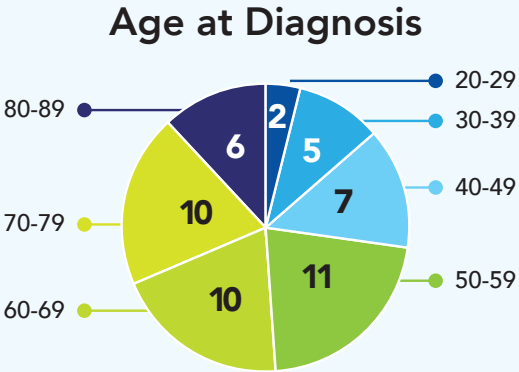
Site Review — Head & Neck Cancers

Head and neck cancers are a complex grouping of cancers arising from the mouth, throat, larynx, salivary glands, thyroid gland and associated structures in the region. Most of these cancers begin in the squamous cells that line the mucosal surfaces inside the head and neck. These cancers are further categorized by the area of the head or neck in which they begin. The categories are important as similar cancers from different regions of the head and neck behave very differently with unique treatments for each.

Head and neck cancers account for approximately three percent of all cancers in the United States. For the year 2014, an estimated 55,070 head and neck cancers were diagnosed in the United States with Massachusetts representing 1,138 of these cases and Southcoast Health diagnosing and/or treating a total of 51 of these cancers.

Cancers of the head and neck are nearly twice as common among men as they are among women and are more often diagnosed over the age of 50. There are several risk factors for head and neck cancer, the most important being alcohol and tobacco abuse. These two risk factors are the cause of at least 75 percent of head and neck cancers. However, there is a rising incidence of these cancers in younger populations of patients who are lifetime non-smokers and this has been attributed to the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), the causative agent for most cervical cancers in women. It appears that the distribution of these cases is changing within the population as a whole and Southcoast Health is not immune to this. Southcoast has instituted standard pathologic testing to determine the presence of HPV for all applicable head and neck cancers as these tumors behave differently and tend to respond better to traditional treatments than traditional head and neck cancers. Patients can be better counseled on risks and side effects as well as prognosis with this additional information.

Treatments for head and neck cancer are highly varied and customized to the individual patient. Southcoast has established a true multidisciplinary treatment team to bring surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, social workers, speech pathologists and nutritionists together to discuss challenging cases and deliver seamless care with the patient at the center. Twice monthly multidisciplinary clinics are held with all specialties available to see patients during a single appointment. This streamlines care and decreases the time from diagnosis to initiation of treatment while improving communication among providers along with patients and is highly patient-centric. Evidence based national treatment guidelines are established to assure high quality patient care. Southcoast Health is committed to this focus and provides cancer treatment according to these guidelines.



Resources: National Cancer Institute, Internet  
American Cancer Society Facts & Figures 2014, Internet  
NCCN Guidelines, National Comprehensive Cancer Network

**SOUTHCOAST**  
HOSPITALS GROUP  
**Centers for Cancer Care**  
A not-for-profit, charitable organization  
[www.southcoast.org/cancercare/](http://www.southcoast.org/cancercare/)  
206 Mill Road  
Fairhaven, MA 02719

2014 Annual Report  
Southcoast Centers  
for Cancer Care



The Cancer Program at Southcoast Health continues to develop and address the growing need for comprehensive cancer services in the South Coast region.

The program strives to deliver the most advanced cancer treatment, with greater convenience, coordination, compassion and more personal attention and support while upholding the strictest quality standards.

 **SOUTHCOAST**  
HOSPITALS GROUP  
**Centers for Cancer Care**

Summary of Cancer Committee Activities 2014

The Cancer Committee continues to oversee cancer care across Southcoast Health, monitoring inpatient, outpatient and home care needs for individuals with a cancer diagnosis. The quality of the care provided is assessed and reported regularly by the committee. Programs are evaluated and developed by the committee to meet the needs of Southcoast’s diverse communities. Developing comprehensive multidisciplinary care and bridging gaps by bringing together all of the specialists to ensure seamless care for an individual patient continued to be the focus for the committee in 2014. During this year the out-patient palliative care program began with the expertise of a board-certified palliative care physician able to see patients in the Cancer Centers. In addition, on-boarding of a thoracic and two gastrointestinal surgeons was completed. This year an Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) multidisciplinary clinic was established in order to facilitate unified evidenced-based management plans of care for these complex patients.

Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care

Cancer services at both locations of the Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care — in Fall River and Fairhaven — have been fully operational since June 2011 with the opening of the Fairhaven center completing a multi-year project to bring state-of-the –art cancer services to the communities Southcoast Health serves. Patients receive seamless care from diagnosis to treatment, home care and survivorship through a system-based coordinated care model. In 2014, 4,799 patients were seen in the cancer centers. Supportive services continue to remain a part of the delivery of comprehensive care at Southcoast. These include navigation, nutritional services, psychosocial services and financial counseling. Importantly, nursing care continues to be delivered at the highest level by oncology certified registered nurses. Seven medical oncologists and three radiation oncologists with two full-time nurse practitioners complete provider services for the centers. Within the cancer centers there remains a strong commitment to patient safety and quality.

Clinical Trial accrual reached 6 percent of our analytic case load for 2014. As an important part of comprehensive cancer care, genetic evaluations for inherited cancer syndromes are offered with support and consultation from the renowned City of Hope’s cancer genetics program.

Quality First

The committee’s activities continue to center on high quality patient care. Three studies of quality were conducted during the year. The first was a study to review the concordance of breast care delivered to patients. The concordance study proved that Southcoast has conformed to a comprehensive set of evidence based guidelines for breast care. The second was a study to review smoking cessation initiatives for patients seen in the cancer centers. This study demonstrated more work needed to be done to improve smoking cessation. A task force was formed to look more closely for ways to improve results. The third study assessed end-of-life for all stage IV lung cancer patients seen within the last five years. As a result of this study, initiatives to improve discussions of advance directives for all stage IV patients have been developed.

The first Whipple procedure for pancreatic cancer was performed in 2014 and set the stage for more advanced gastrointestinal surgeries. Outpatient rehabilitation expanded in the Fall River area offering lymphedema expertise for patients post-mastectomy. A post-operative guide for patients who had undergone lymph node dissections was also completed. The Breast Program prepared for a rigorous accreditation through the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC).

Education and Reporting

Weekly Cancer Conferences are held across all three hospital sites bringing general and specialty surgeons, radiology, pathology, medical oncology, radiation oncology and supportive care services together to discuss and plan coordinated care for newly diagnosed patients. These continue to provide patient focused care by following evidence based guidelines that advance quality, promote safety and improve professional skills. In addition, Oncology Grand Rounds are held monthly and provide continuing medical education specific to physicians, nurses and other allied health professions who provide care to cancer patients. In 2014, reflecting the highest quality of care provided for patients at the Southcoast Centers for Cancer Care, two original scientific abstracts were accepted for presentation to the ASCO Quality of Care Symposium.

The Cancer Registry continues to remain 100 percent compliant with the Commission on Cancer abstracting and reporting to the National Cancer Data Bases as required by the American College of Surgeons. The registry provides data to physicians interested in specific diseases and therapies on an ongoing basis.

In the Community

Community outreach remains a priority for the committee. With a community needs assessment complete, the cancer committee formulated goals to better reach the underserved including those of low socio-economic status, less educated and minority populations. In 2014, skin, prostate, oral, breast and lung cancer screenings were offered to the community. Several lectures on colorectal awareness, melanoma, breast reconstruction and general cancer awareness were held. Collaboration with the American Cancer Society offering the Road to Recovery and Look Good Feel Better programs supported our patients throughout the year. Four to six support groups are held each month for patients and caregivers. Through coordination between the cancer program and Southcoast Hospice & Palliative Care, bereavement support groups are also held monthly. A coordinated program with local YMCAs, Southcoast and the Livestrong Foundation allows patients completing cancer care to begin an exercise program free of charge to make the transition from patient to survivor easier. The Gloria Gemma HOPE bus visited the cancer centers on several occasions in order to provide additional support services to the patients seen at the cancer centers. Other events such as the Annual Cancer Survivors Day, Play for a Cure, Shine a Light, and events geared specifically toward women’s heath were all part of the 2014 community cancer initiatives.

Frequency Distribution Table 2014

PRIMARY SITE	NUMBER OF CASES 2013	NUMBER OF CASES 2014
Brain /Central Nervous System	29	21
Breast	250	239
Colon & Rectum	149	135
Digestive	98	113
Endocrine	24	21
Gynecological	41	38
Leukemia	32	27
Lung	221	212
Lymphoma	67	51
Male Genital	140	109
Mesothelioma	4	6
Myeloma	15	17
Oral	17	27
Respiratory	13	5
Skin	23	16
Urinary System	136	114
Other/Miscellaneous	48	49
TOTAL	1,279	1,200

\*2013-2014 data representative of a full year of abstracting

Screening & Outreach

The Southcoast Cancer Program has conducted the following free cancer screenings in the community to help with early detection and provide education on cancer prevention.

- Breast • Prostate • Head & Neck • Skin • Lung

Support Groups

Southcoast provides a wide range of support groups throughout the South Coast region to provide cancer patients and their families with guidance, support and the opportunity to connect with others who are having the same experience. Specialized groups are available including:

- Breast cancer.
- Patients with any cancer diagnosis beginning treatment or in active treatment
- Multiple Myeloma/Leukemia/Lymphoma
- Lung Cancer
- Patients who are no longer in active treatment
- Family members or anyone providing support to a cancer patient

For more information on Southcoast’s cancer support groups contact: Susan Domingue, LICSW, at 508-973-7888 in the Fall River area. Linda Casey, LICSW, at 508-973-3000 in the Fairhaven area.

2014 Cancer Committee Members

Therese M. Mulvey, MD, Chair, Genetics Professional

Victor Pricolo, MD, Cancer Liaison Physician/Surgeon

Coordinators

Elizabeth Blanchard, MD, Clinical Research Coordinator

Susan Domingue, MSW, LICSW, Psychosocial Services Coordinator/Social Worker

Kathy Tsonis, Community Outreach Coordinator

Kathy Moraes, RN, MHA, OCN, Quality Improvement Coordinator/Quality Management Representative

Beth Herrick, MD, Cancer Conference Coordinator

Kathryn Chen, MD, Cancer Registry Quality Coordinator

Members

Carolyn Mongeon, MD, Pathologist

Joshua Farb, MD, Radiologist

Mark Shparber, MD Medical Oncologist

Tushar Kumar, MD, Radiation Oncologist

Carme Tripp, RN, MHA, OCN, Oncology Nurse/Cancer Program Administrator

Charles Hackett, MD, Palliative Care Team Member

Tracey McDuffie, CTR, Certified Cancer Tumor Registrar

Deborah Carvalho, HIM, Cancer Registry Manager

Laura Haynes, RPh, Pharmacist

Julie Guerreiro, RD, Dietitian

Janet Gillis, PT, Rehabilitation Representative

Allison Gorski, MD Pain Management Representative

Barbara Jenney, Recorder

Partnerships.



LIVESTRONG

Southcoast Health



YMCA • Livestrong • Southcoast Partnership  
American Cancer Society Partnership  
Look Good Feel Better • I Can Cope • Tobacco Control •  
Road to Recovery