

K A N S A S



Kansas Comprehensive Cancer Control & Prevention Partnership Survey of Cancer Centers

Executive Summary

The Kansas Comprehensive Cancer Control and Prevention (CCC) Partnership is a collaborative group of 140 members across Kansas working to reduce the risk and burden of cancer in the state. The Partnership published the Cancer Plan in March 2005 and immediately began working on the goals and objectives outlined in the document to make an impact on the problems and issues faced by cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and families. Each year in Kansas more than 11,500 individuals are diagnosed with cancer, beginning the process of making major health decisions, seeking quality care and accessing the many and varied services available to patients. One of the issues identified in the Plan was the need for a patient navigator or advocate that could assist in the continuum of cancer care.

In March 2006 the CCC Partnership invited 57 Cancer Centers, identified as providing cancer patient services across the state of Kansas, to complete a survey to help identify needs, gaps and barriers to quality services in the state. The survey focused on gathering information about patient services pertinent to those affected by cancer as they navigate their way through the health care system. The ultimate goal of the survey is to work toward establishing Patient Navigator programs in Kansas' health care centers statewide.

The survey data was gathered in the spring of 2006, analyzed throughout the summer and culminated in a draft document that was reviewed by the CCC Patient Navigator workgroup in September. A total of 41 Centers returned the completed survey, a 72 % response rate.

The objectives of the survey were:

- To assess the level of coverage of cancer diagnosis and treatment services in Kansas,
- To identify strengths and weaknesses of the current cancer care delivery system,
- To inform the cancer centers about the existing services, and
- To generate pertinent information that could support a patient navigation program in Kansas in the future.

Methodology

Several means were used to administer the 26-question survey. First, a comprehensive list of Cancer Centers was researched and generated by the Partnership along with contact names, address and other pertinent information. The CCC Patient Navigator Workgroup identified a number of issues that were used to craft questions for the survey. A letter was sent to a contact person of each Center to invite him or her to participate in the survey by either filling out a Web based electronic copy online or a hard copy (pencil-and-paper type) to be mailed in. Follow-up phone calls were made if no response was received after a month. The completed pencil-and-paper surveys were subsequently converted to the electronic format by entering them through the online version of the survey. The data was analyzed using a SAS statistical package. What follows is a summary of the results gathered from those responses.

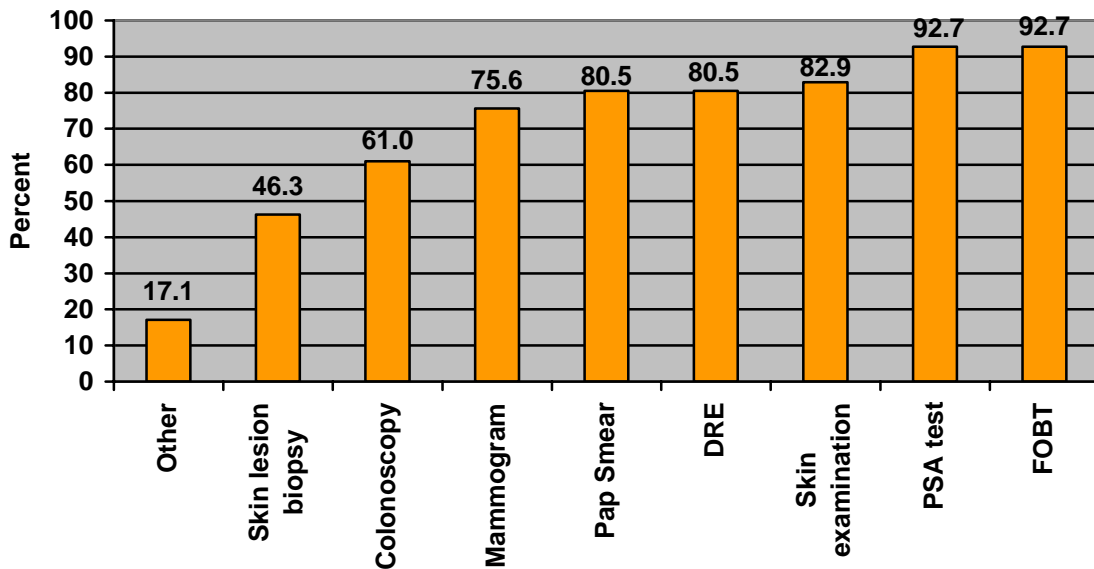
Summary of the survey questions and answers:

SCREENING SERVICES FOR CANCER

This section evaluates the availability of screening services in Kansas. Based on this survey it is estimated that :

- Mammography is offered by 75.6% of the centers
- Pap test is offered by 80.5% of the centers
- Prostate Specific Antigen test is offered by 92.7% of the centers
- Digital Rectal Exam is offered by 80.5% of the centers
- Fecal Occult Blood Test is offered by 92.7% of the centers
- Colonoscopy is offered by 61% of the centers
- Skin examination is offered by 82.9% of the centers
- Biopsy of skin lesions is offered by 46.3% of the centers
- Other tests such as PET (Positron Emission Tomography) /CT (Computed Tomography) scans, uterine biopsy, and genetic counseling/testing are offered by 17.1% of the centers.

Percentage of Centers Offering Specific Cancer Screening Tests

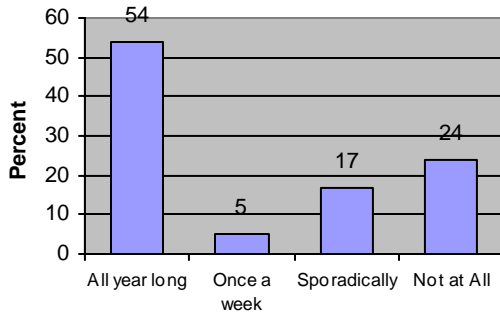


According to the survey all cancer centers offer some cancer screening services. FOBT, PSA test, and Skin examination are the most frequently offered screening tests. Advanced screening tests, skin lesion biopsy, and colonoscopy are among the least offered screening tests.

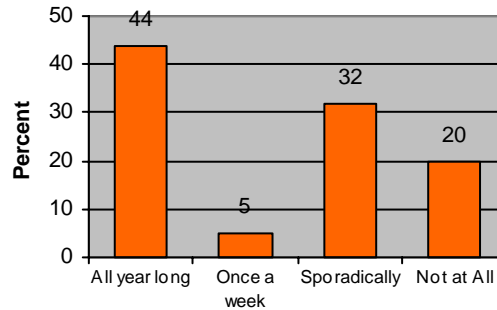
Availability of Screening Services

Mammogram was offered every working day, all year long at 54% of centers, at least once a week, but not everyday at 5% of centers, sporadically at 17% of centers and not at all at 24%.

Availability of Mammogram, According to The Respondents



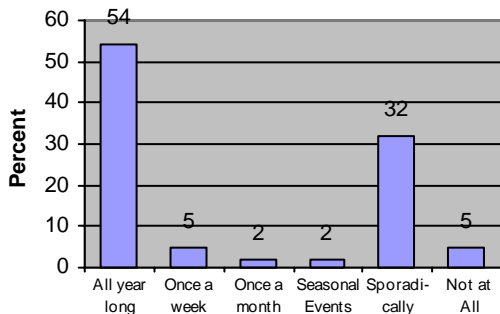
Availability of Pap Smear, According to The Respondents



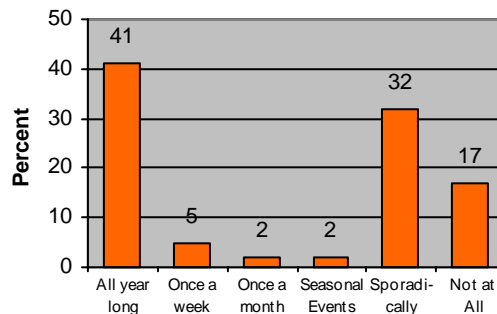
Pap smear tests was offered every working day, all year long at 44% of centers, at least once a week, but not everyday at 5% of centers, sporadically at 32% of centers and not at all at 20%.

Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test was offered every working day, all year long at 54% of centers, at least once a week, but not everyday at 5% of centers, at least once a month, but less than once a week at 2% of centers, on a seasonal basis at 2% of centers, sporadically at 32% of centers and not at all at 5%.

Availability of PSA, According to The Respondents



Availability of DRE, According to The Respondents

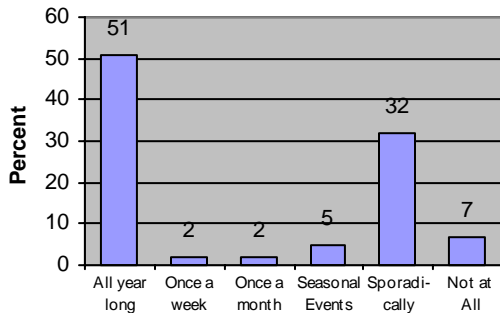


Digital Rectal Exam (DRE) was offered every working day, all year long at 41% of centers, at least once a week, but not everyday at 5% of centers, at least once a month, but less than once a week at 2% of centers, on a seasonal basis at 2% of centers, sporadically at 32% of centers and not at all at 17%.

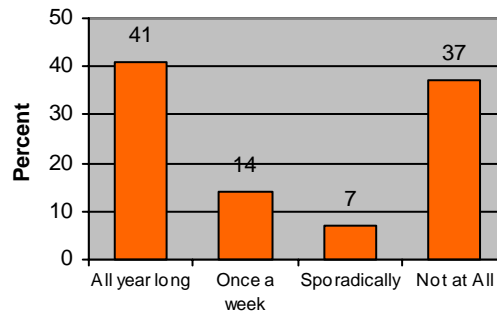
Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) was offered every working day, all year long at 51% of centers, at least once a week, but not everyday at 2% of centers, at least once a month, but less than once a week at 2% of centers, on a seasonal basis at 5% of centers, sporadically at 32% of centers and not at all at 7%.

Colonoscopy was offered every working day, all year long at 41% of centers, at least once a week, but not everyday at 14% of centers, sporadically at 7% of centers and not at all at 37%.

Availability of FOBT, According to The Respondents



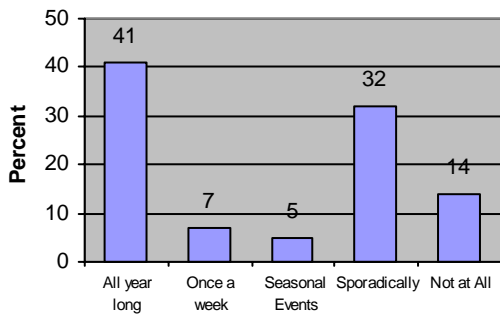
Availability of Colonoscopy, According to The Respondents



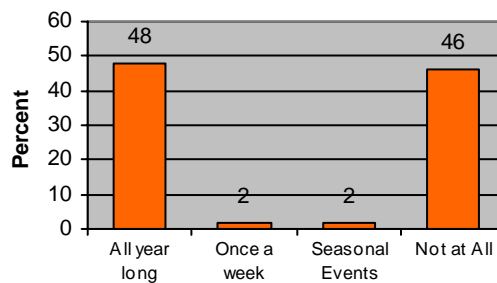
Skin examination was offered every working day, all year long at 41% of centers, at least once a week, but not everyday at 7% of centers, on a seasonal basis at 5% of centers, sporadically at 32% of centers and not at all at 14%.

Skin lesion biopsy was offered every working day, all year long at 48% of centers, at least once a week, but not everyday at 2% of centers, on a seasonal basis at 2% of centers and not at all at 46%.

Availability of Skin Examination, According to The Respondents



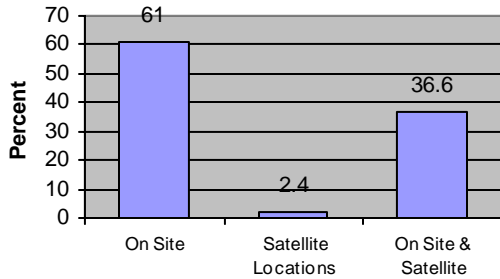
Availability of Skin Lesion Biopsy, According to The Respondents



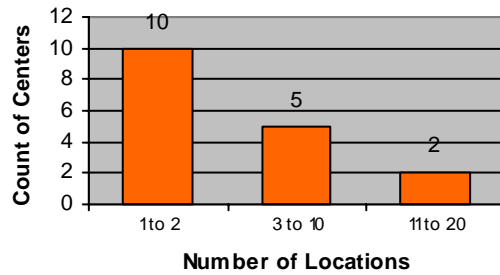
Location of Screening Services

Sixty-one percent (61%) of centers surveyed provide their services on site only, while 2.4% provide services at satellite locations only. Services provided at both on-site and at satellite locations accounted for 36.6% of respondents.

Locations Where Screening Services Are Provided, According to The Respondents



Distribution of Centers by the Number of Screening Satellite Locations Reported

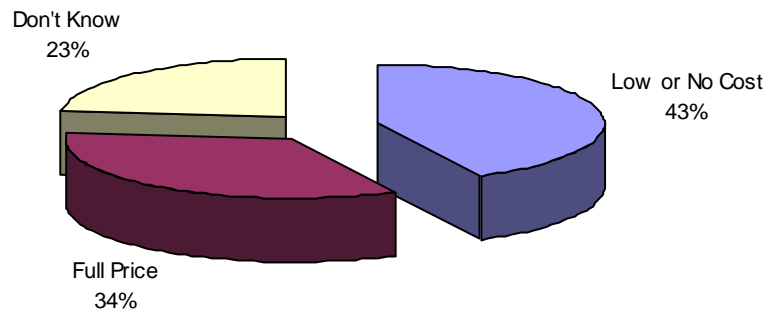


For those centers that reported that they provide screening services at satellite locations (17), the number of locations was distributed as follows. Four centers reported one satellite location, six reported two locations, two reported five locations, and five reported respectively 3, 4, 8, 12, and 20 satellite locations. Together, those centers accounted for 64 % of all satellite locations reported (73).

Cost of Services Provided

Twenty (20) centers said that they provide services at low or no cost, using promotional programs, while 16 said they charge full price for their services. Eleven (11) respondents did not know or were not sure of what they charge.

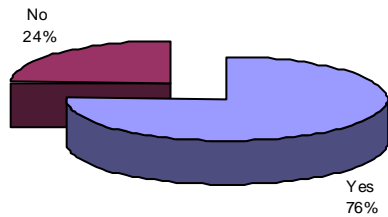
Percentage of Centers Offering Screening Services at Low or Full Cost



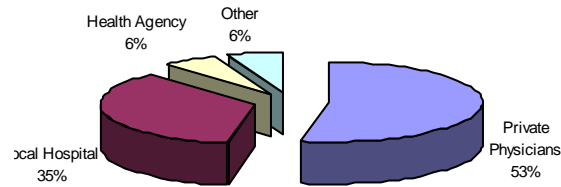
Cancer Diagnosis Services

About 76 % of the centers reported that they provide diagnostic services in their facility, while 24% stated that they did not offer diagnosis services in their facility. Seventeen (17) centers refer their patients to other facilities for diagnostic services. The largest number of them (9 or 52%) refer patients to private physicians, followed by those centers that refer to local hospitals (6 or 35%), and the rest (2 or 12%) refer either to local health agencies or to other institutions.

**Percentage of Centers Offering
Diagnosis Services in their Facility**



**Places of Referral for Centers that Do
Not Offer Diagnosis Services On Site**



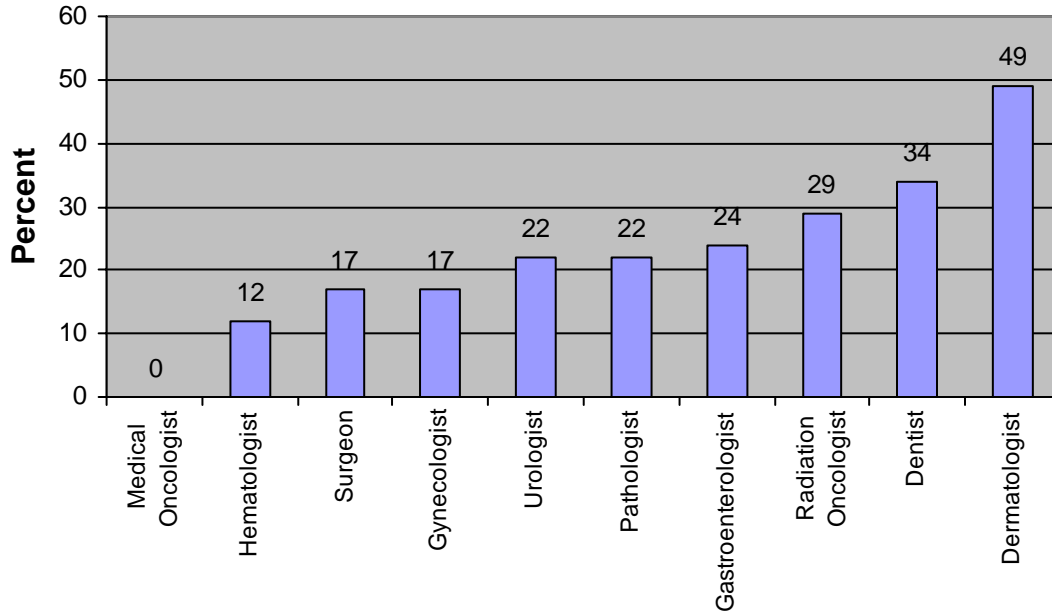
Access to Specialists by Cancer Centers for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment:

Table 1 Level of access to specialists as reported by survey respondents

	On Staff	Visiting	No Access
Hematologist	59%	29%	12%
Urologist	54%	24%	22%
Surgeon	71%	12%	17%
Medical Oncologist	76%	24%	0%
Radiation Oncologist	56%	15%	29%
Dermatologist	29%	22%	49%
Gynecologist	61%	22%	17%
Pathologist	51%	37%	22%
Dentist	46%	20%	34%
Gastroenterologist	49%	27%	24%

Access to dermatologists and dentists seems to be the most difficult for the survey participants. Almost half of them did not have access to dermatologists and more than one third had no access to dentists. On the other hand, they reported having the greatest access to medical oncologists and surgeons. None of them reported having no access to medical oncologists.

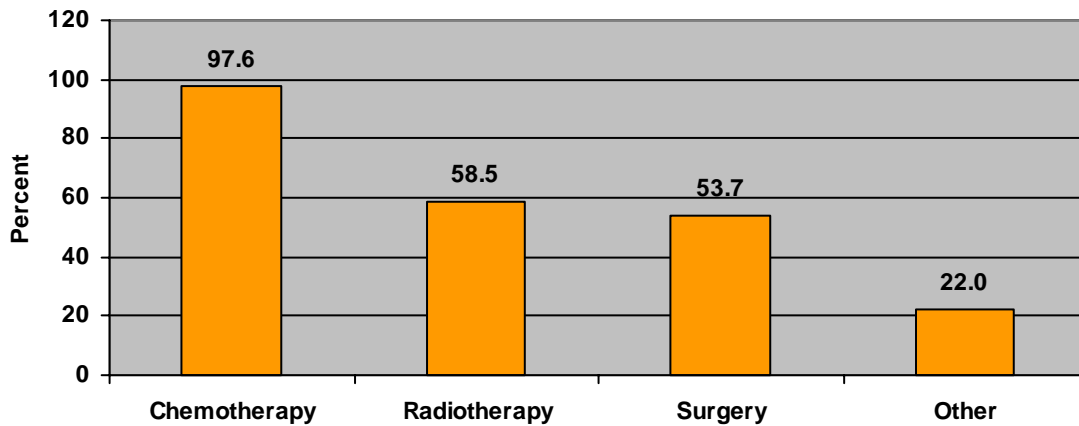
Percentage of Respondents Reporting Having No Access to Specialists, By Category of Specialists



Availability of Cancer Treatments

According to the respondents, chemotherapy was available at 97.6% of the centers. Radiotherapy was available at almost two-thirds of the centers (58.5%). Surgery was available at more than half of the centers (53.7%). Other treatments also were available, including radioactive thyroid treatments, brachytherapy, biological and targeted therapy and cryoablation, at 22% of centers.

Percentage of Centers Offering Specific Cancer Treatments



Assistance to Cancer Patients

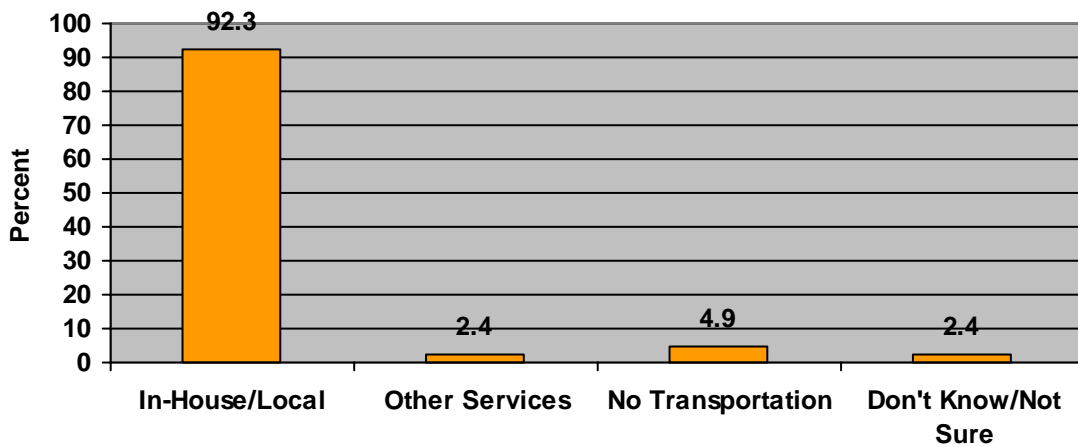
Financial Assistance:

When asked about the availability at their facility of financial resources for patients in need of care with no insurance or high, unmet deductibles, 92.7% of the centers responded “yes” and 7.3% responded “no.”

Transportation Assistance:

When asked if patients using their facility have access to transportation services, 92.2% responded “yes.” Their patients have access to in-house or local/community based transportation, for example, American Red Cross or churches. Another 2.4% responded that their patients have access to other kind of transportation that was not an in-house service or from a local/community based institution. Two respondents or 4.9% reported that their patients do not have access to transportation at all and one respondent (2.4%) was not sure or did not know the answer to that question.

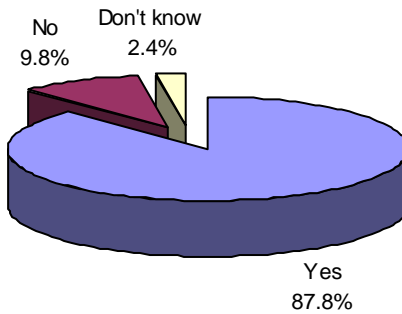
Types of Transportation Services Available to Patients at Cancer Centers



Translation Assistance:

When asked if patients receiving care at their facility use translation services that they have available, 36 centers (87.8%) reported that their patients use the translation services available at their facility while four (9.8%) centers reported that their patients did not use them. One facility (2.4%) did not know or was not sure if the services were being utilized.

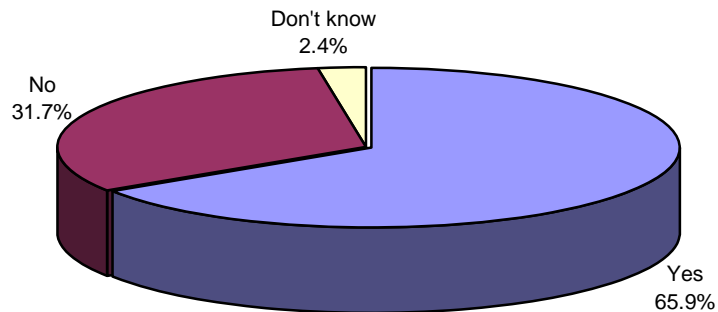
Do patients receiving care at your facility use translation services that you have available?



Resource Assistance:

When asked if they have an in-house library or resource center where cancer patients can come to access information, 65.9 % of the centers responded that they have an in-house library, 31.7% do not and one center (2.4%) was unsure or did not know.

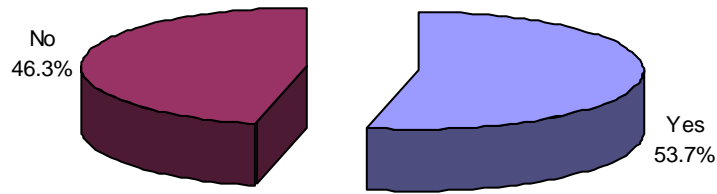
Do you have an in-house library or resource center where cancer patients can come to access information?



Access to Information:

When asked if they have on-line access and computers for cancer patients to use, 53.7 % of the centers answered yes, they do have on-line access for patients and 46.3% answered no, they do not have internet access for patients.

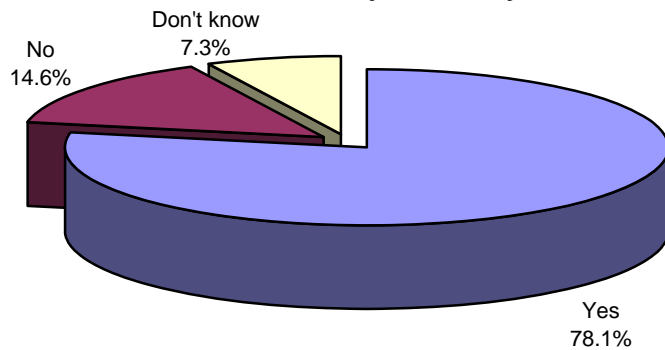
Do you have on-line access and computers for cancer patients to use?



Enrollment in Clinical Trials

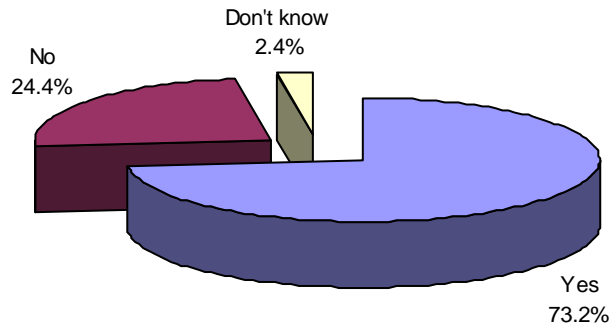
When asked if patients have an opportunity to enroll in cancer-related clinical trials at their facility, 78 % of respondents said yes, 14.6% said no, they don't and 7.3% did not know or were unsure if their patients had the opportunity to enroll in clinical trials.

Do cancer patients have an opportunity to enroll in cancer-related clinical trials at your facility?



When asked if their facility manages cancer-related clinical trials, 73.2% of the centers responded yes, 24.4% facilities said no and one (2.4%) was unsure or did not know if their facility managed clinical trials.

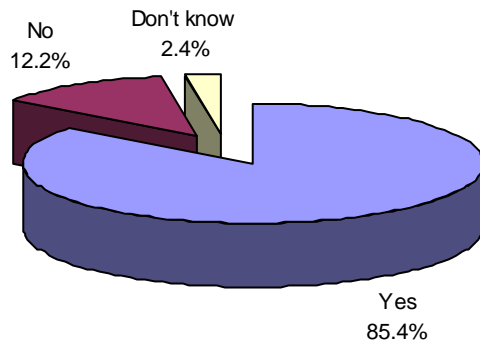
Does your facility manage cancer-related clinical trials?



Access to Palliative Care

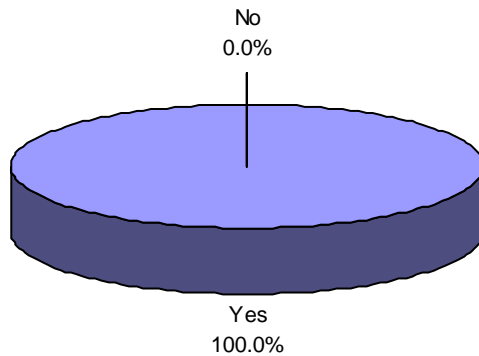
The survey participants were asked if their facility has a program for palliative care for cancer patients. To that question 41 centers (85.4%) answered yes, five (12.2%) said no and one (2.4%) was unsure or did not know if their facility had palliative care programs.

Does your facility have a program for palliative care for cancer patients?



Survey participants were further asked if their facility refer terminally ill patients to hospice services. All 41 centers (100%) reported referring terminally ill patients to hospice services.

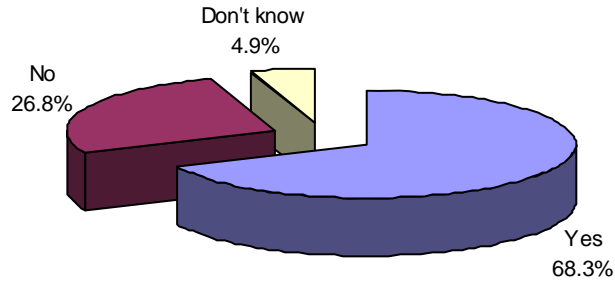
Does your facility refer terminally ill patients to hospice services?



Access to Patient Navigation Program

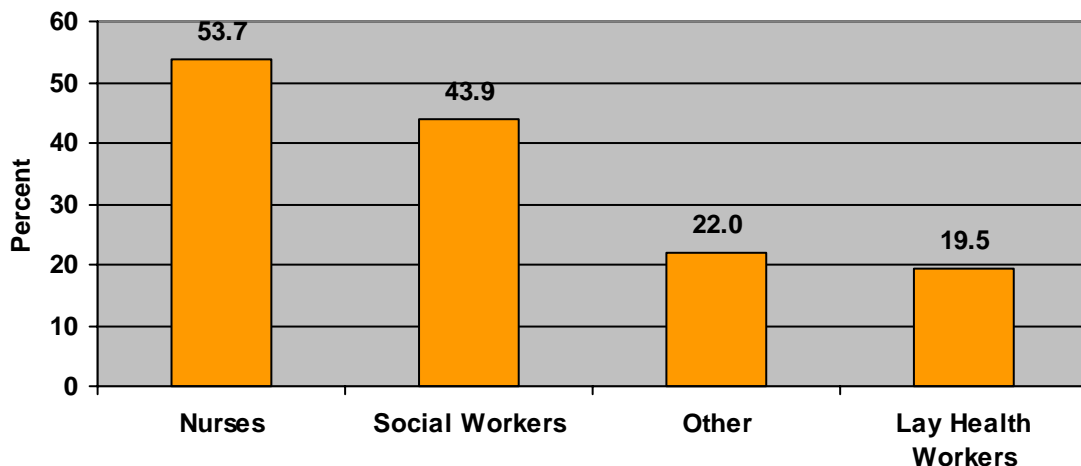
Survey participants were asked if their facility provided patient navigator services to cancer patients. For the purpose of this survey patient navigators were described as health professionals who work with patients, their families and their providers to ensure that their needs are effectively addressed. To that question, 68.3% percent of centers said yes, 26.8% said no and 4.9% were unsure or did not know if their facility provided patient navigation services.

Does your facility provide patient navigator services to cancer patients?



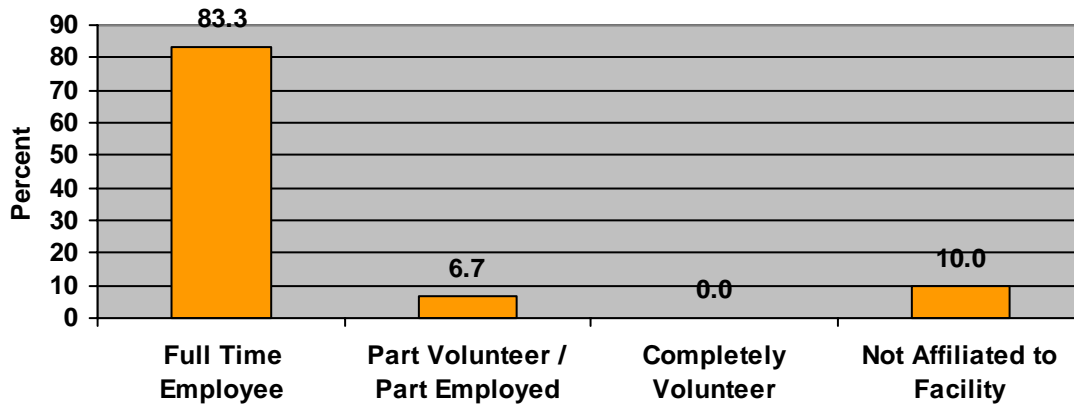
Those who reported that their facility provided patient navigator services to cancer patients were further asked about the qualifications of the patient navigators. Eighteen (18) centers (43.9%) reported that their navigators were social workers, 22 (53.7%) reported their navigators being nurses, eight (19.5%) reported that their navigators were lay health workers and nine (22%) reported other types of professionals as being responsible for patient navigation at their facility. Those professionals included Utilization Review Nurses, physicians, financial counselors and billing clerks.

Types of Personnel Responsible for Patient Navigation at the Surveyed Cancer Centers



Those who reported having patient navigation services at their facility also were asked about the employment status of the current patient navigators. To that question, 83.3 % of respondents reported that their patient navigators were all employees of the facility. None responded that they were completely volunteers, 6.7% reported that they were partly paid staff and partly volunteer staff, and 10% said they do not have patient navigator rolls at their facility.

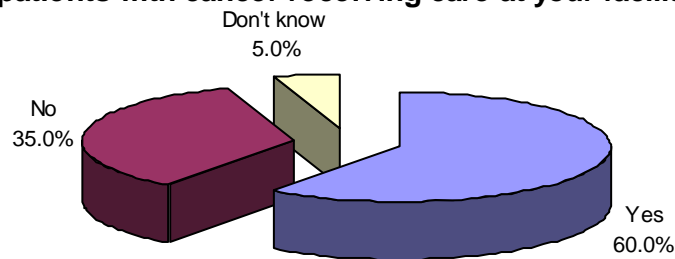
Employment Status of Patient Navigators, As Reported by Survey Participants



Availability of Cancer-Related Support Groups

Survey respondents were asked if they provide support groups led by health professionals for patients with cancer receiving care at their facility. To that question, 34 centers (60%) stated that they provide support groups at their facility, 14 (35%) said they don't offer them and 2 (5%) were not sure or didn't know if their facility offered support groups.

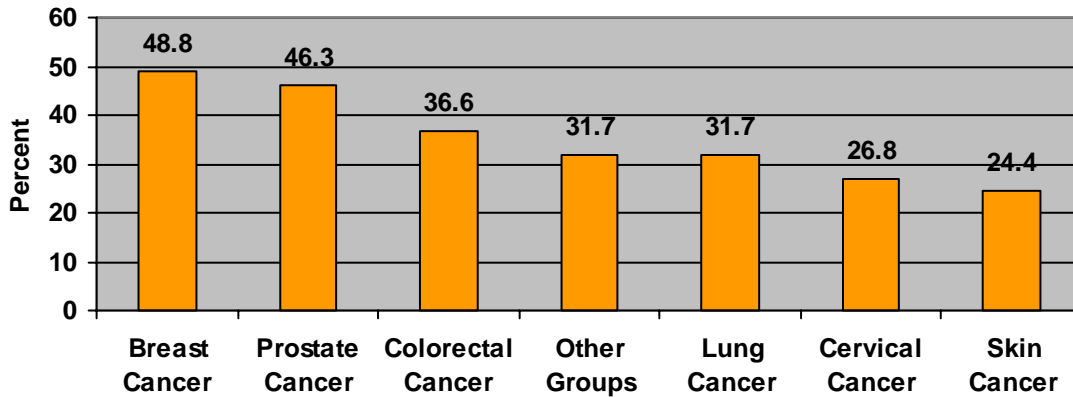
Do you provide support groups led by health professionals for patients with cancer receiving care at your facility?



Those centers who reported that they provided support groups to cancer patients were further asked about the type of cancer the support groups were addressing. They reported that breast cancer support groups were offered at 48.8% of the centers, colorectal groups at 36.6% of the centers, prostate at 46.3% of the centers, skin at 24.4% of the centers, lung and bronchus at 31.7% of the centers, cervix uteri at 26.8% of centers and other

groups at 31.7% of the centers. The other category included general support groups, caregiver groups, groups for friends and family, lymphoma groups, multiple myeloma groups and brain cancer support groups.

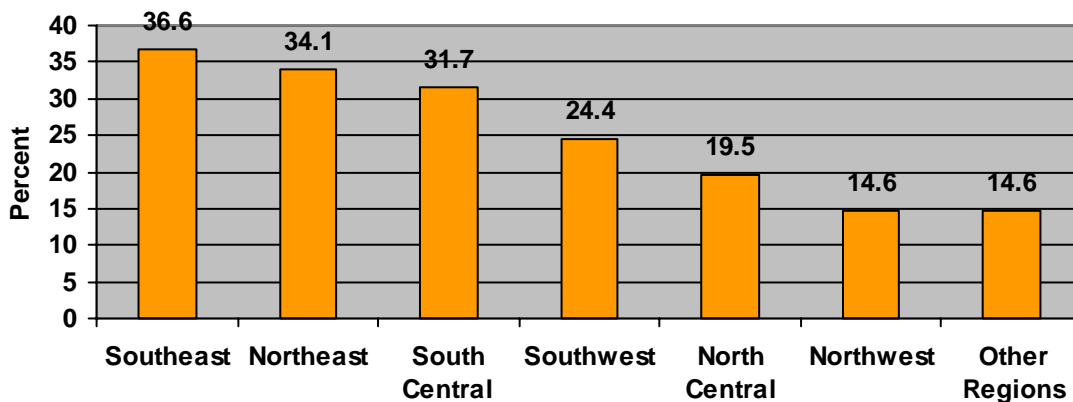
Availability of Support Groups at the Cancer Centers, As Reported by Survey Participants



Areas Serviced by Cancer Centers

Finally, the survey participants were asked to indicate the regions in Kansas where they think most of the patients who use their facility come from. The majority of the respondents (36.6%) reported that their patients come from the southeast region. The second highest location was the northeast region with 34.1% of respondents. Following those two regions were south central with 31.7%, southwest with 24.4%, north central with 19.5% and northwest and other regions with 14.6% of responses. The other regions included patients from east central Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa and Oklahoma.

Areas Where Respondents Think Their Cancer Patients Come From



That completes the survey report of the Cancer Centers located in the state of Kansas. If you would like further details or have any questions about the report, please feel free to contact the Kansas Cancer Partnership at 785-296-1228 or e-mail pohara@kdhe.state.ks.us.

Additional information and resources about cancer in Kansas can be obtained on the Cancer Partnership web site www.cancerkansas.org