

Cancer survival analysis is one way to understand the effects of cancer by looking at survival time, or how long a person lives after a cancer diagnosis. Type of cancer, stage at diagnosis, and access to treatment are some factors that affect survival time. The costs of cancer are an issue of concern due to expensive treatments, limited insurance coverage, and lost work productivity.

We cannot measure, in dollars, the suffering and loss of a family member, friend, or co-worker. We have all felt this loss. Thus, “Governments need to invest into strengthening primary and secondary care services, making them an option that is more easily accessible to remote populations.” (Dyer et. al., 2018)



Thank you for your interest in learning more about cancer in our island and our Pacific Region. To request a copy of the full reports, visit the website www.guamcrc.org or contact:

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Together We Can Survive Cancer and Reduce the Costs of Cancer in Guam

Hafa Adai!

The Guam Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition’s (GCCCC) mission is to reduce the burden of cancer for Guam residents through community-wide efforts. Its vision is that “the people of Guam will be cancer-free, embracing a healthy lifestyle and living in a healthy environment.”

GCCCC, through its Data & Research Action Team (DRAT), in 2014 hired two consultants to conduct separate studies on cancer survival and cancer costs in Guam. The studies were challenging, requiring both research expertise and access to quality data. Data for the survival study came from Guam Cancer Registry (GCR); while data for the cost study came primarily from Public Health’s Medicaid-MIP program, with the same data from GCR.

The DRAT team produced this brochure in an effort to simplify and summarize the important findings from the reports. They are quite technical and, as all studies do, have their limitations which are detailed in the reports. We included more recent data to make this informational brochure more relevant to the “cancer picture” in Guam today.

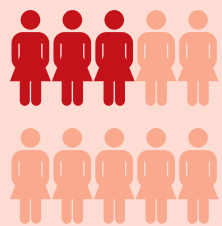
Lung Cancer Survival and Mortality Analyses of Guam Cancer Registry Data, 2000 – 2009

Author: Michael Ehlert, Ph.D.

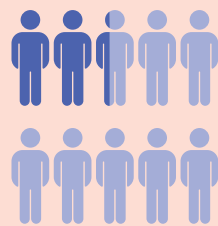
Based on GCR data from 2000-2009, lung cancer ranked number one among cancer-related deaths for both males and females on Guam. This technical report analyzed 272 cases with 94 females and 178 males. The ethnic groups included 135 Chamorro, 65 Filipino, and 43 Caucasian/other. Due to limitations of small population size and patient follow-back, the findings in the report need more study.

• Lung and bronchus survival by sex:

Female cases showed a higher survival proportion than males. In Guam, the 5 year survival percentages for all lung and bronchus cases show a 30% survival rate for females as compared to 23% for males.



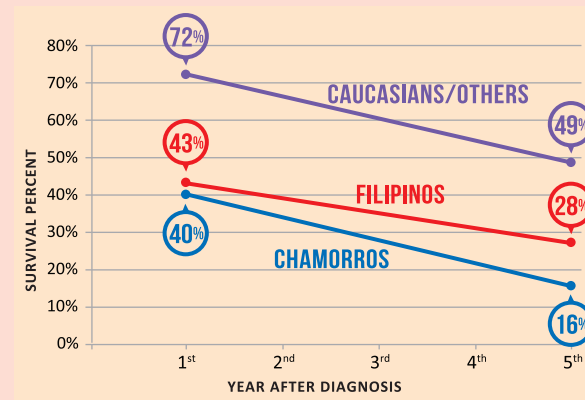
30%



23%

• Lung and bronchus survival by ethnicity:

Survival during the first year after diagnosis is similar for Chamorros (40%) and Filipinos (43%). Five years after diagnosis, about half (49%) of Caucasians/other survived, compared to 16% of Chamorros and 28% Filipinos.



DON'T GIVE UP – THERE IS HOPE FOR HEALING!

Early detection is now available for lung cancer. The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends screening for lung cancer using low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) in adults aged 55 to 80 years who have a 30 pack-year smoking history and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years.

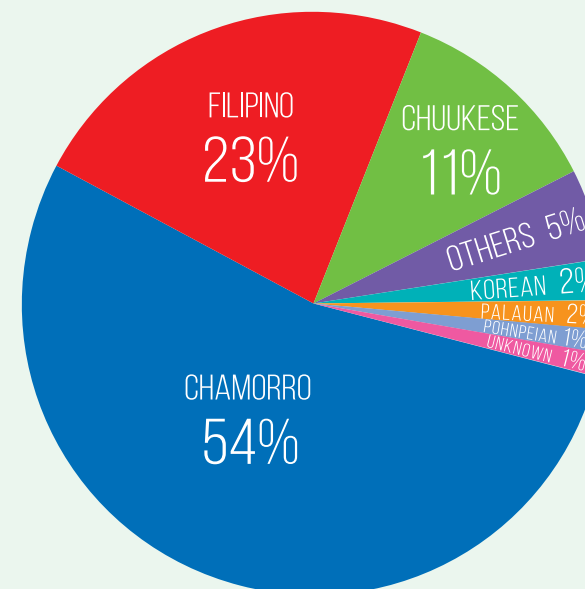


A Pilot Study on the Medical Costs Analysis of the Ten Leading Cancers by Organ Site in Guam, USA: Findings from the Medicaid-MIP Data, 2007-2011

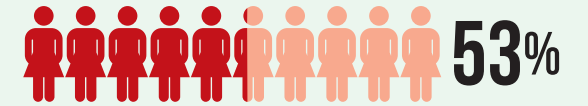
Author: Juanito Zuasula, Jr., RN, BSN

Study examined healthcare spending of Medicaid-MIP plan between 2007-2011 for those newly diagnosed with any one of the top ten leading cancers by organ site. Top three sites were: breasts, prostate, and lung. Others were: colon, hematopoietic (or blood cancer such as leukemias, lymphomas), cervical, oral & pharynx (mouth cancers), liver, thyroid, and stomach cancers.

- New Cancer Cases by Ethnicity, total = 620



- Distribution by sex

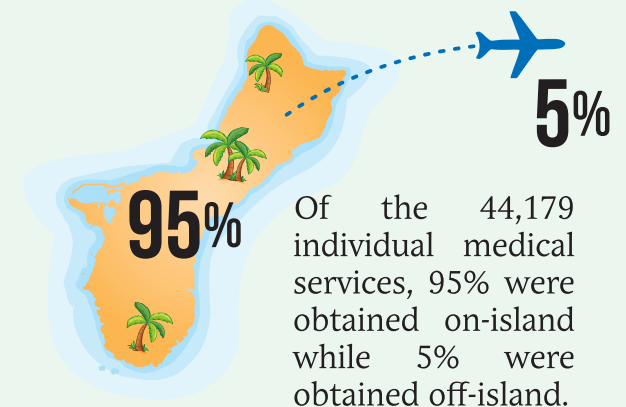


53%

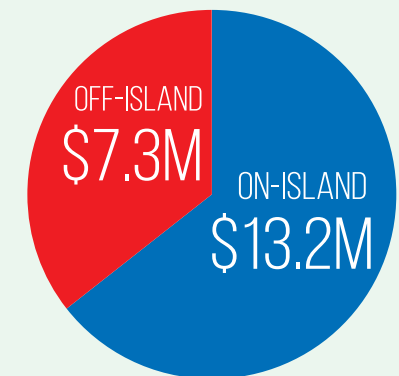


47%

- Location of services



- Five-year total cost of medical services paid by Medicaid-MIP, total = \$20.5M



- Blood cancers have the highest on-island inpatient medical service cost while stomach cancer has the highest on-island outpatient medical service cost.