



# Interim Staff Report: State Funding for Cancer Research

Joint Commission on Health Care  
October 7, 2009 Meeting

Michele L. Chesser, Ph.D.  
Senior Health Policy Analyst



## Purpose of Study

- 2009: SJR 292 (Senator Martin) directed the Joint Commission on Health Care (JCHC) to conduct a 2 year study to:
  - Examine the sufficiency of current funding sources for both the Massey Cancer Center and the University of Virginia Cancer Center
  - Review the history and successes of cancer research at each center
  - Explore benefits to the Commonwealth of expanding state support of both centers
  - Research additional funding opportunities for both centers
- Left in House Rules Committee, but agreed to by JCHC members



## The Need for Greater Cancer Research

- According to the National Cancer Institute:
  - **1 in 2 men** and **1 in 3 women** will develop cancer at some point in their life
  - The probability of developing cancer increases with age

Source: CPAC's [2008-2012 Virginia Cancer Plan](#), pg. 13

3



## Incidence of Cancer in Virginia

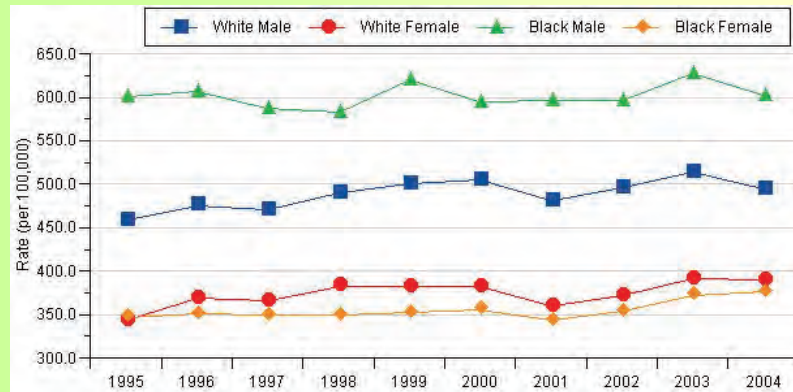
- 2000-2004
  - There were 168,331 new cases of cancer in Virginia
  - The incidence rate for all cancers in Virginia was 429/100,000 compared to 471/100,000 for the U.S.
- From 1995 to 2004, the rate of new cancer cases increased by 10 percent in Virginia

Source: CPAC's [2008-2012 Virginia Cancer Plan](#), pg. 5

4



## Cancer Incidence Rate, All Sites, by Gender & Race, Virginia, 1995-2004



Source: Multiple sources compiled by Virginia's Cancer Plan Action Coalition. [2008-2012 Virginia Cancer Plan](#), pg. 13.

5



## Cancer Mortality in Virginia

- Cancer was the second leading cause of death among Virginia residents between 2001 and 2005
- Cancer accounted for almost 25 percent of all deaths in 2004
  - This proportion has remained the same since 1995, while heart disease deaths fell from 30% to 24.5%.

Source: CPAC's [2008-2012 Virginia Cancer Plan](#), pg. 5

6



## Cancer Mortality in Virginia

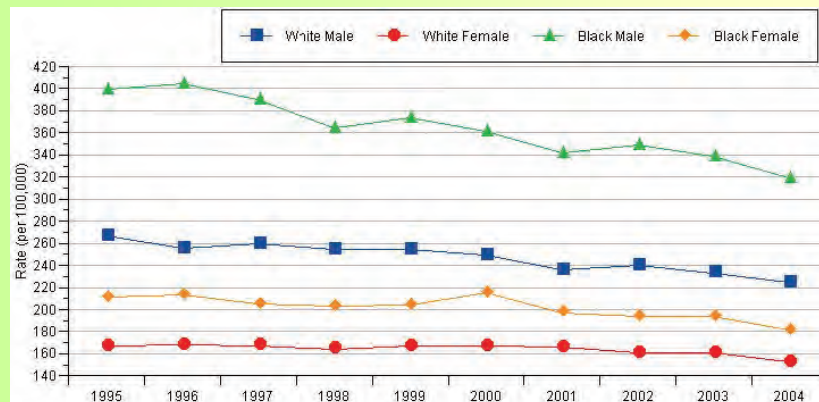
- Based on data from 2002 to 2004:
  - Virginia has the 18<sup>th</sup> highest cancer death rate among males and the 26<sup>th</sup> highest rate among females, compared to other states

Source: CPAC's 2008-2012 Virginia Cancer Plan, pg. 5

7



## Cancer Mortality Rate, All Sites, by Gender & Race, Virginia, 1995-2004



Source: Multiple sources compiled by Virginia's Cancer Plan Action Coalition. 2008-2012 Virginia Cancer Plan, pg. 18.

8



## Hospitalizations and Hospital Costs Due to Cancer

	1998	2003
# of Hospitalizations	27,302	25,934
Average Length of Stay	7.27 days	7.39 days
Average Charge per Stay	\$17,248	\$27,000
Total Charges	\$469 million	\$704 million
Total Days Hospitalized	198,217	189,683

Source: Virginia Health Information, Hospital Discharge Patient-Level Dataset (via CPAC's 2008-2012 Virginia Cancer Plan, pg. 39)

9



## Cancer Prevention, Treatment, & Research in Virginia

- There are two National Cancer Institute-Designated cancer research centers in Virginia:
  - Virginia Commonwealth University's Massey Cancer Center
  - University of Virginia Cancer Center
- Both rely on federal, state, and private funds
- In 2009, each cancer center received \$1 million in general funds for research
  - At least \$1 - \$2.5 million is required to attract one top-level researcher to one of our cancer centers
- State funds are often used to leverage private sector donations and grant funding

10



## State Funding for Cancer Research Study Activity

- Year One of Study
  - Literature and data review
  - Created study work group (14 members)
  - First work group meeting held to introduce the study and develop a second year work plan

11



## Work Group Members

- **Vernal Branch**, Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation, Advocacy and Constituency Coordinator
- **Keenan Caldwell**, American Cancer Society, State Director of Government Relations
- **Syd Dorsey**, UVA, Board of Visitors Member, cancer survivor
- **George Emerson**, VCU Massey Cancer Center, Board Member, cancer survivor
- **Gordon Ginder, M.D.**; VCU Massey Cancer Center; Director

12



## Work Group Members

- **Meredith Strohm Gunter**; UVA Cancer Center, Board Member; Co-Founder of Patients and Friends Research Fund Steering Committee; cancer patient
- **Rosemary LaVista**, VCU Massey Cancer Center, Executive Director of Development
- **John Roberts, M.D.**; VCU Massey Cancer Center; Associate Director of Clinical Research
- **Christina Sheffield**, UVA Cancer Center/Cancer Prevention Action Coalition (CPAC), Manager of UVA Breast Care Program and CPAC Member

13



## Work Group Members

- **Mark Smith**, VCU, Associate Vice President for Government Relations & Health Policy
- **Judy Turbeville**, VCU Massey Cancer Center, Advisory Board Member, cancer survivor
- **Cynthia Vinson**, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute
- **Mike Weber, Ph.D.**; UVA Cancer Center; Director
- **Geoffrey Weiss, M.D.**; UVA Cancer Center; Medical Director and Chief of Hematology-Oncology

14



## Internet Address

Visit the Joint Commission on Health Care website:  
<http://jchc.state.va.us>



**Contact Information**  
[mchesser@jchc.virginia.gov](mailto:mchesser@jchc.virginia.gov)  
900 East Main Street, 1st Floor West  
P. O. Box 1322  
Richmond, VA 23218  
804-786-5445  
804-786-5538 fax