

THE SOUTH CAROLINA PEDIATRIC CANCER PLAN

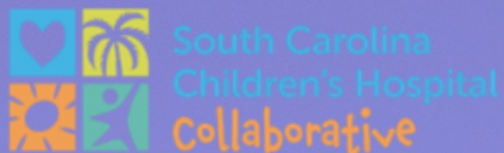
Executive Summary

[SC Cancer Alliance](http://www.sccancer.org)

1800 St. Julian Place
Suite 408
Columbia, SC 29204

803-708-4732

www.sccancer.org



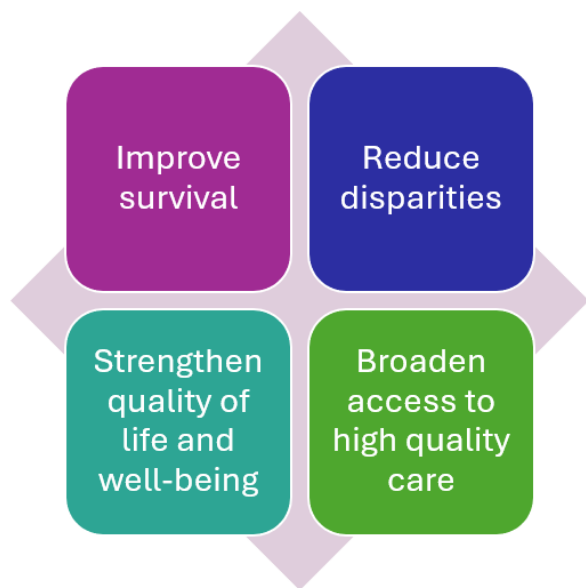
**SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**

2027-2031

Introduction

Since 1998, the CDC's National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program has supported cancer coalitions to implement cancer plans in US states, territories, and tribal organizations. Comprehensive Cancer Control Plans provide a strategic framework to guide local cancer control activities based on assessment of the cancer landscape.¹ South Carolina updates its Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan every 5 years to serve as a roadmap for reducing the impact of cancer across South Carolina. Though children with cancer have unique needs during treatment and survivorship, few plans include goals specific to children.² In 2024, we published the first trend report on Childhood Cancer in South Carolina with the SC Department of Public Health, which laid the foundation for the first dedicated [Pediatric Cancer Plan](#), a key component of our state's broader Cancer Control Plan.³

Pediatric Cancer Plan Mission & Vision



Mission of the South Carolina Pediatric Cancer Plan: *To improve childhood cancer survival, reduce disparities, strengthen quality of life and well-being for patients and families, and broaden access to high-quality care.*

Vision of the South Carolina Pediatric Cancer Plan: *Every child with cancer in South Carolina receives high-quality, affordable, family-centered care, with equitable access to treatment, clinical trials, survivorship services, and long-term support.*

South Carolina Pediatric Cancer Plan Roadmap

Priority areas for the South Carolina Pediatric Cancer Plan are awareness, quality care, educational support, and survivorship. Goals for each area are detailed below. Standards for Pediatric Oncology Metrics include American Society of Clinical Oncology Advancing Access to High-Quality Cancer Care Consensus Statement and Standards for the Psychosocial Care of Children with Cancer and their Families.^{4,5}

- **Awareness** - Increase awareness of childhood cancer in South Carolina by providing accurate, up-to-date information, including the availability of treatment and resources at the state's three pediatric oncology centers
- **Quality Care** - Ensure that all children with cancer in South Carolina have access to high-quality clinical and supportive care services
- **Educational Support** - Improve educational continuity, school reentry, and long-term educational outcomes for children and adolescents affected by cancer in South Carolina
- **Survivorship** - Ensure that every childhood cancer survivor receives a standardized survivorship care plan with coordinated long-term medical and vocational support to promote lifelong health, well-being, and independence.

The roadmap below provides a high-level visual overview of the South Carolina Pediatric Cancer Plan, illustrating the four priority areas and their supporting goals from awareness through long-term survivorship. It is intended to complement the detailed descriptions that follow and serve as a quick reference for readers.



South Carolina Pediatric Cancer Plan Objectives, 2027-2031

Pediatric Cancer Awareness

OBJECTIVE 1: Update the SC Childhood Cancer Trend Report on a 5-year cycle and the Childhood Cancer Fact Sheet annually to support evidence-based planning, advocacy, and policy.

OBJECTIVE 2: Maintain and update the South Carolina Cancer Alliance Patient & Family Resource Hub biannually to ensure resources remain current and specific to South Carolina.

OBJECTIVE 3: Implement an annual statewide childhood cancer awareness campaign each September across major communication channels, focused on the high-quality care available at SC's three pediatric oncology centers.

Pediatric Cancer Quality Care

OBJECTIVE 4: Complete a statewide grid mapping of clinical and supportive-care services across the three SC pediatric oncology treatment centers to identify service gaps for prioritization.

Pediatric Cancer Educational Support

OBJECTIVE 5: Develop and promote standardized school re-entry guidance for SC students with cancer to support academic continuity, accommodations, and safe reintegration through development and implementation of a statewide School Toolkit.

Pediatric Cancer Survivorship

OBJECTIVE 6: Ensure that every childhood cancer survivor in South Carolina receives a standardized, evidence-based survivorship care plan (SCP) at transition to survivorship care.

OBJECTIVE 7: Determine the feasibility of implementing a statewide process for vocational assessment, guidance, and transition support for childhood cancer survivors.

Conclusion

South Carolina's First Pediatric Cancer Plan will serve as the roadmap to improve outcomes for children with cancer in South Carolina for the next 5 years. Full plan details including implementation measure, proximal and distal outcome measures are available online. We invite you to join our efforts and stay informed by visiting: <https://www.sccancer.org/cancer-plan/pediatrics/>

South Carolina Pediatric Cancer Plan Future Directions

South Carolina Pediatric Cancer Advocacy

The South Carolina Pediatric Cancer Workgroup supports policies and solutions that promote timely benefits, longitudinal navigation, and educational support for children with cancer. State-level advocacy priorities include Medicaid and TEFRA (secondary Medicaid) coverage of principal illness navigators and support for a South Carolina hospital-based teacher program to provide K-12 instruction to hospitalized children.

South Carolina Pediatric Cancer Research

State-level research priorities for South Carolina include understanding the changing incidence patterns of childhood cancer. The incidence of childhood cancer is rising overall in South Carolina and nationally, and some specific cancer types are on the rise while others are declining. Another state-level research priority is understanding factors that contribute to ongoing survival disparities among Black and Hispanic children with cancer in South Carolina.

Feasibility of a South Carolina Children's Cancer Trust

An area for future exploration includes the development of a state Children's Cancer Trust to provide a budgetary allocation for South Carolina research and innovations to improve survival, well-being, and quality of life for children with cancer in our state.

Acknowledgement of South Carolina Pediatric Cancer Workgroup Members

The South Carolina Pediatric Cancer Plan was developed by our state workgroup on pediatric cancer. Members of the South Carolina Pediatric Workgroup include pediatric oncologists from our 3 pediatric cancer treatment centers, leadership from the SC Cancer Alliance, the SC Central Cancer Registry, parent advocates, and a pediatric neurocognitive educator.

Contact Information

Anna Hoppmann, MD, MPH

Pediatric Oncologist/Prisma Health

Asst.Prof., USC School of Medicine

Chair, South Carolina Pediatric Cancer Workgroup (PWG)

anna.hoppmann@prisma-health.org

Anca Dumitriu, MD

Pediatric Oncologist, MUSC

Director of Survivorship

MUSC

PWG Co-Chair

dumitriu@msuc.edu

Tessa Roberts, RN, BSN

Nurse Manager, Women's and Children's Research/Prisma Health

Parent Advocate, PWG Co-Chair

Tessa.Roberts@PrismaHealth.org

References

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Resources for Childhood Cancer Survivors

South Carolina has 3 survivorship programs for ongoing care of childhood cancer survivors in Columbia, Greenville, and Charleston to support the ongoing medical and psychosocial needs after cancer treatment. Survivorship care generally starts 3-5 years after cancer treatment ends. If you are a childhood cancer survivor that lives in SC, are not establish with a survivorship program, and want a care plan for long term follow up after cancer treatment, reach out to one of our survivorship programs to discuss care plan development.

MUSC FACT (Follow up after cancer treatment) Program, Charleston, SC

Pediatric Hematology Oncology
2250 Mall Drive
Charleston, SC 29406
Phone: 843-792-7194,
Fax: 843-985-4255

Prisma Health – Midlands Children's Hospital

Pediatric Hematology Oncology
7 Richland Medical Park Drive, Suite 7215
Columbia, SC 29203
Phone: 803-434-3533
Fax: 803-434-3094

Prisma Health – Upstate Children's Hospital

Pediatric Hematology Oncology
900 W. Faris Road
Greenville, SC 29605
Phone: 864-455-8898
Fax: 864-455-5164