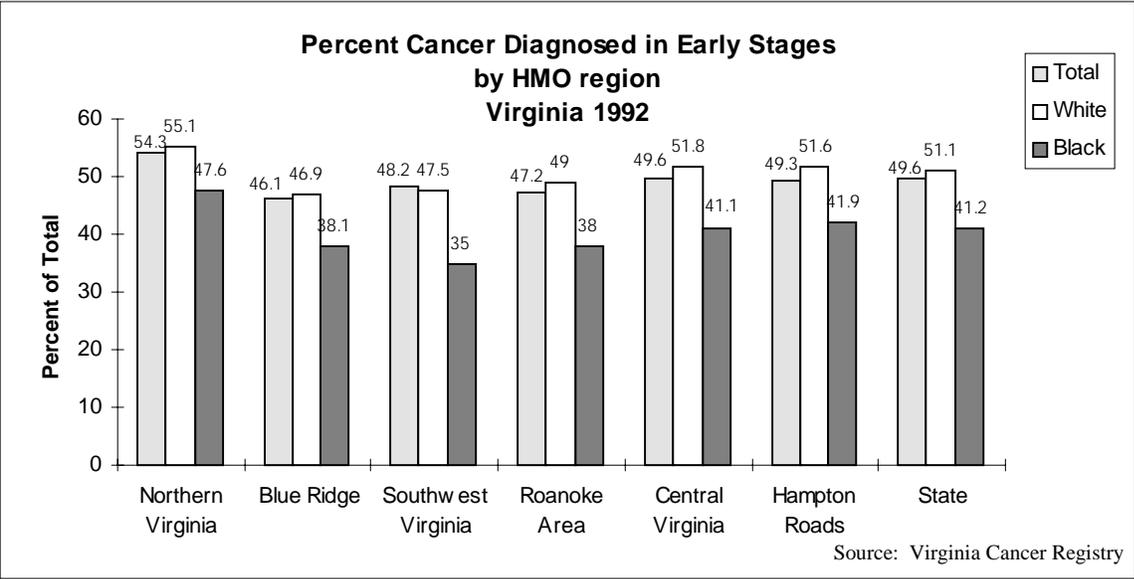


Stage of Cancer at Diagnosis

Objective: Increase the percent of all cancer that is diagnosed in the early stages to at least 57.1%

The percentage of cancers which are first detected in the early stages serves as an indicator of the quantity, quality, and effectiveness of screening efforts. At the time of initial diagnosis, cancer is considered in the early stages of development if it has not spread beyond its organ of origin. Staging information helps guide treatment selection and planning, by relating an individual patient’s prognosis to the outcomes experienced by previous patients with cancers detected at the same point of development and treated with various methods. Generally, early stage cancers have the most favorable outcomes. Therefore, by increasing the percentage of all cancers that are detected before progressing to a later stage of development, cancer mortality should decrease. Since an early-stage cancer often causes no symptoms, its detection is almost always through some sort of screening effort, either self-examination (e.g., breast) or clinical screening (e.g., mammography).

The Virginia Cancer Registry in the Virginia Department of Health collects information on the stage of cancer at diagnosis. Of all cancers reported for 1992, 49.6% were diagnosed in the early stages (*in situ* and local). The white population had a higher proportion of cancers diagnosed in the early stages (51%) than the black population (41.3%). Increased screening can raise the percentage diagnosed in early stages which should decrease the cancer mortality and overall morbidity.



**Percent Cancer Diagnosed Early by
Health District, Virginia 1992**

		Virginia 2000 Objective
FIRST QUARTILE	Loudoun	56.0
	Prince William	55.6
	Alexandria	55.5
	Fairfax	55.2
	West Piedmont	54.6
	Virginia Beach	54.5
	Chesterfield	54.3
	Rappahannock	53.6
	Thomas Jefferson	52.9
	Henrico	52.9
		57.1%
SECOND QUARTILE	Arlington	51.5
	Portsmouth	51.4
	Lenowisco	51.0
	Norfolk	50.7
	Piedmont	50.5
	Hanover	49.7
	Chesapeake	49.4
	Peninsula	49.1
	New River	49.0
	Alleghany	48.9
		Virginia 1992
		49.6%
THIRD QUARTILE	Hampton	48.7
	Mount Rogers	48.3
	Roanoke	47.3
	Cumberland Plateau	47.2
	Pittsylvania/Danville	47.0
	Central Virginia	45.1
	Three Rivers	44.6
	Richmond	44.3
	Shenandoah	43.6
	Rappahannock/Rapidan	43.3
FOURTH QUARTILE	Lord Fairfax	42.3
	Crater	41.7
	Southside	41.0
	Western Tidewater	40.2
	Eastern Shore	33.3