

Southern Philippines Medical Center House of Hope census from 2019 to 2021

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Globally, an estimated 400,000 children (0-19 years old) develop cancer each year.¹ In the Philippines, over 4,700 cases are diagnosed annually, and 49% of these cases have a diagnosis of leukemia.² One of the main causes of preventable deaths from childhood cancers in low- and middle-income countries is obstacle to accessing care.¹ Long travel time for cancer care, especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, in addition to accommodation costs, may lead to greater expenditure and reduced compliance to follow-up.³ The lengthy waiting times during the whole course of the treatment process may leave patients stranded in the corridors of the hospital. This could further impact on the psychological and mental state of the patients. Hence, hospitals, especially those involved in cancer care, often endeavor to provide temporary shelters where patients can feel calm and comfortable in between therapy schedules.⁴

The House of Hope Foundation for Kids with Cancer, Inc., which started as Davao Children's Cancer Fund, Inc. on May 3, 2004, is a non-profit organization created to support children with cancer in Davao and the rest of Mindanao. One of its major projects is the House of Hope (HoH), a transient home in Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC) for children with cancer and their families, built in partnership with the Rotary Club of Waling-Waling Davao.

This infographic includes data on the number of patients who availed themselves of the programs and services of the HoH from January 2019 to December 2021. In those three years, 205 patients diagnosed with solid tumors, 188 diagnosed with leukemia/lymphoma, and 14 diagnosed with benign tumors or autoimmune diseases, utilized the services of the HoH. In 2019, the HoH had seen a great number of patients (204) who availed themselves of the services of the transient home. In the same year, the highest number of patients (102) was recorded in the month of December. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a significant drop in the number of occupants in the HOH. From a monthly average of 58 patients before the start of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) on April 4, 2020, the number of occupants decreased to a monthly average of 17 patients recorded after the ECQ was implemented, until December 2021. On the other hand, the patients' length of stay in the HoH increased considerably from an average of 45 days in 2019 to an average of 75 days in 2021. During the pandemic, patients and their families opted to stay in the HoH in between treatment cycles in order to conserve time and money spent on fulfilling pandemic-related procedures in utilizing health care.

Out of the 279 patients who were alive from 2019 to 2021, 122 (43.73%) were recorded to have been undergoing treatment for their illness, 107 (38.35%) to have completed their full treatment course, and 18 (6.45%) to have abandoned their treatment during those years. Out of the 76 patients who expired in the same time span, 70 (92.11%) had been able to undergo treatment, while only 4 (5.26%) had completed their treatment, and 2 (2.63%) had abandoned their treatment before their demise.

Since its inception, the HoH at SPMC has become a vital part of the hospital's holistic cancer care by providing temporary housing for children with cancer and their families.

Contributors

CMPA and CXDL contributed to the conceptualization of this article. CMPA wrote the original draft while CXDL rendered the original draft of the infographic. Both authors performed the subsequent revisions, approved the final version, and agreed to be accountable for all aspects of this article and its corresponding infographic.

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HOUSE of HOPE

census from 2019 to 2021

Diagnosis of patients

188

Leukemia / Lymphoma

205

Solid tumors

14

Benign / others

Average length of stay in days

45

2019

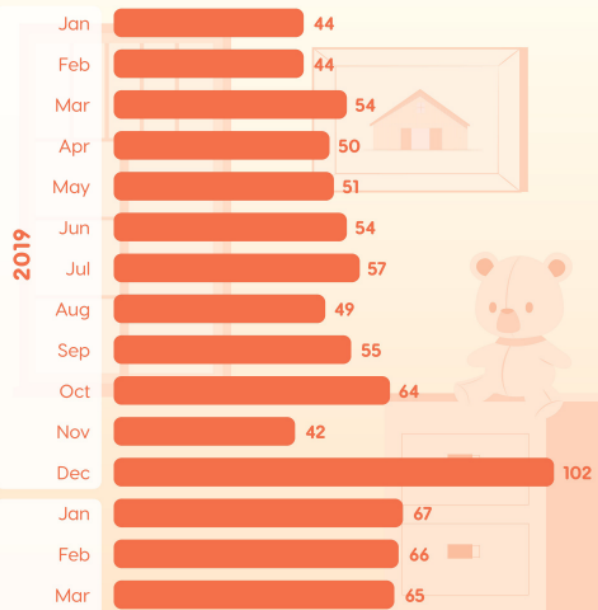
64

2020

75

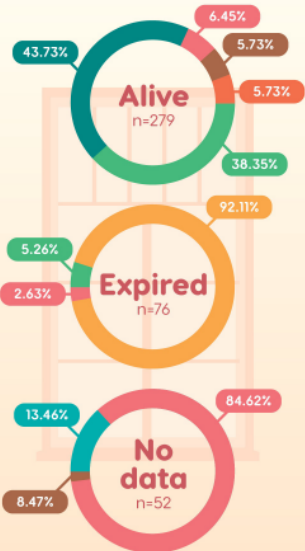
2021

Monthly census of patients

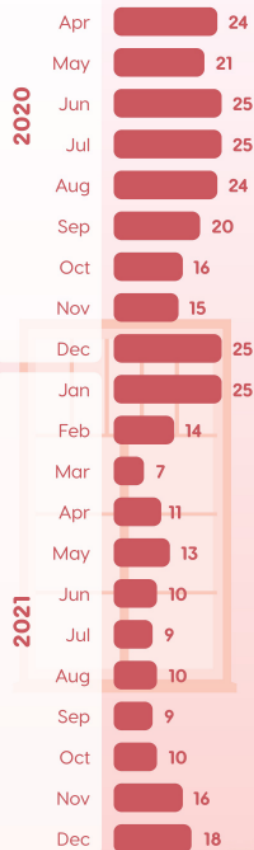
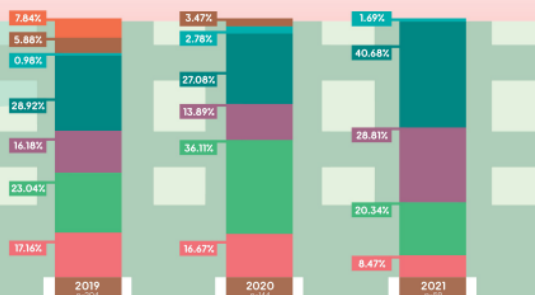


Patient status

- Ongoing treatment
- Completed treatment
- Abandoned treatment
- Transferred service
- No data
- Ongoing treatment before demise
- Refused treatment
- Incomplete treatment



Overall treatment status



Enhanced Community Quarantine



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