

ASCO's commitment to cancer care delivery in USA: SOCCA 2017 Report

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is committed to increasing awareness about cancer care delivery, and as part of its efforts in this direction, it has been publishing an annual State of Cancer Care in America (SOCCA) report since 2014. The 2017 report analyzes demographic, economic, and oncology practice trends affecting cancer care in the United States and describes how a rapidly transforming system is responding to these changes. The progress markers include advances in precision medicine, greater investments in research, increased insurance coverage, reduced mortality, healthcare systems that allow us to learn from patients, and innovative payment models. Nevertheless, several challenges hinder patients' access to high-quality cancer care, such as rising treatment expenses and existing disparities concerning ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and geography. Physicians, too, face obstacles, as they have to cater to the needs of an increasing patient population and constantly evolve to adapt to changes in the practice landscape. They are burdened by high administrative costs and consequently don't have adequate time to spend with patients. Taking into account the progress markers and known challenges, ASCO has several recommendations for the future. Its efforts aim to support policymaking to strengthen and transform cancer care delivery in America.