


# Results from the 2021 Global Oncology Survey of NCI-Designated Cancer Centers

The US National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) Center for Global Health supports and encourages global engagement by the network of NCI-Designated Cancer Centers in many ways, including through the Global Oncology Survey of NCI-Designated Cancer Centers. The survey results about cancer centers’ global oncology programs and research projects complement data about global oncology research funded by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH).

**KEY FINDINGS ON THE BACK** 

## Survey Objectives



**Provide a comprehensive view** of trends in global oncology activities led by NCI-Designated Cancer Centers



**Facilitate collaboration** between global oncology researchers at NCI-Designated Cancer Centers and partner institutions



**Present data** for NCI-Designated Cancer Centers to leverage to advance their global oncology programs and activities



**Inform the development** of impactful NCI and partner initiatives in global oncology



**Understand the impact of COVID-19** on global oncology activities at NCI-Designated Cancer Centers

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

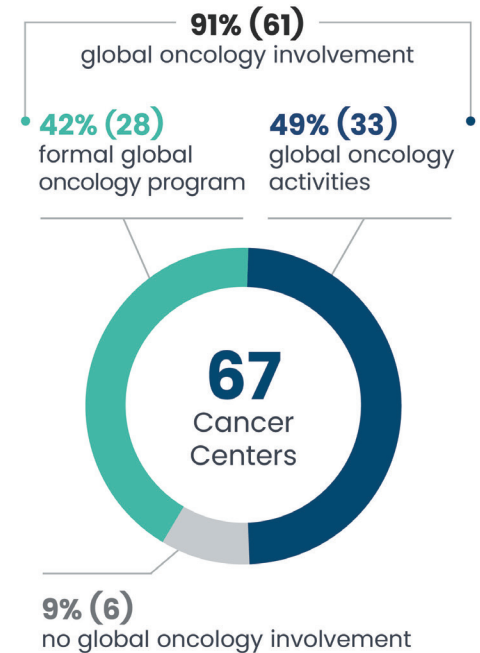
The survey was designed and piloted in collaboration with several cancer centers and professional organizations. It was fielded online from May 2021 through January 2022. All non-NIH data are self-reported by cancer center directors, global oncology points of contact, and primary investigators, or by NIH for NIH-funded data.

**94% (67/71) of NCI-Designated Cancer Centers responded to the survey.**

## Key Findings

- 91% (61/67) of cancer centers reported global oncology involvement.** Of this group, **nearly half (28/61) have a formal global oncology program**, defined as *“a dedicated department, office, or program that leads the management of global oncology activities across your cancer center.”* Ten directors of cancer centers without a global oncology program expressed interest in creating one in the next 3–5 years.
- Cancer centers reported 517 non-NIH-funded global oncology projects** active in 2021, with collaborators across 85 countries, including 39 low- and middle-income countries. When added to the **688 NIH-funded grants** active in fiscal year 2021 with international collaborators, it is clear that NCI-Designated Cancer Centers are leading a substantial amount of global oncology research. Cancer centers are more likely to work with collaborators in low- and middle-income countries on non-NIH-funded projects than on NIH-funded grants.
- 54% of cancer centers involved in global oncology (33/61) offer training in global oncology**, and 15 of those have a specialized training program dedicated to global oncology.
- 79% of cancer centers reported that COVID-19 impacted their global oncology activities**, and 72% of all projects were impacted.
- Tracking global oncology activities is challenging**, especially for cancer centers without a formal program. Of those, 51% (17/33) say activities are tracked by the individuals responsible, while 42% (14/33) do not systematically track global oncology activities at all.

## Global Oncology at NCI-Designated Cancer Centers



## Countries collaborating on global oncology projects with cancer centers



## Looking Ahead

The full 2021 global oncology survey results and associated publication will be shared by early 2023. Results will also be presented at the World Cancer Congress in Geneva, Switzerland in October 2022 and at other meetings over the next year.

Resources and data will be shared on <https://cancer.gov/globalhealth> as they become available. The report of the [2018–2019 Global Oncology Survey](https://cancer.gov/globalhealth) is also available at <http://cancer.gov/global-survey>.

## QUESTIONS & DATA REQUESTS

Elise Garton  
[elise.garton@nih.gov](mailto:elise.garton@nih.gov)

Mishka Kohli Cira  
[mishka.cira@nih.gov](mailto:mishka.cira@nih.gov)