



Division of Cancer Prevention and Control



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a leader in nationwide efforts to ease the burden of cancer. Through the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, CDC works with national cancer organizations, state health agencies, and other key groups to develop, implement, and promote effective strategies for preventing and controlling cancer.

The Burden of Cancer

The cancer community has made extraordinary progress in the development and use of cancer prevention strategies, early detection interventions, and treatments during the past two decades. Nonetheless, every year cancer claims the lives of more than half a million Americans (1). Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States, exceeded only by heart disease (2).

More than 557,000 people—more than 1,500 people a day—died of cancer in the United States in 2002 (3).*

That same year, more than 1,240,000 Americans were diagnosed with cancer (3). This number excludes diagnoses of pre-invasive cancer (except for urinary bladder cancer) and the approximately 1 million cases of nonmelanoma skin cancer that were diagnosed the same year (4).

* Incidence counts cover approximately 93% of the U.S. population. Death counts cover 100% of the U.S. population. Use caution in comparing incidence and death counts.

Ongoing Work

Monitoring

CDC provides funding and assistance to help states, tribes/tribal organizations, and territories collect data on cancer incidence and deaths, cancer risk factors, and the use of cancer screening tests. Public health professionals use the data to identify and track cancer trends, strengthen cancer prevention and control activities, and prioritize the use of resources.

Conducting Research and Evaluation

CDC conducts and supports studies designed to help the cancer community better understand the factors that increase cancer risk and identify opportunities to prevent cancer. CDC also evaluates the feasibility and effectiveness of strategies designed to prevent and control cancer.

Building Capacity and Partnerships

CDC works with partners to translate research into public health programs, practices, and services. To ensure that innovations reach the people who most need them, CDC helps states, tribes/tribal organizations, and territories build the capacity to apply scientific advances to the development of strong cancer control programs.

Educating

CDC develops communication campaigns and materials designed to teach health professionals, policy makers, the media, and the public about cancer prevention and control.

CDC's Cancer Related Programs

The following programs and initiatives illustrate CDC's comprehensive approaches to preventing and controlling cancer.

- Since 1991, the **National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP)** has provided more than 6.5 million screening and diagnostic exams for breast and cervical cancer to more than 2.7 million low-income women who had little or no health insurance. The NBCCEDP supports early detection programs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 13 American Indian/Alaska Native organizations, and 4 U.S. territories. To increase screening rates, the program also supports education and outreach activities, case management services, and research.
- The **National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program** funds states, tribes/tribal organizations, and territories to establish coalitions, assess the burden of cancer, determine priorities, and develop and implement comprehensive cancer control (CCC) programs. CCC is a collaborative process through which a community pools resources to reduce the burden of cancer that results in risk reduction, early detection, better treatment, and enhanced survivorship. During fiscal year 2005, CDC supported CCC programs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 6 tribes/tribal organizations, and 6 U.S. Associated Pacific Islands/territories.
- The **National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR)** collects data on the occurrence of cancer; the type, extent, and location of the cancer; and the type of initial treatment. NPCR supports cancer registries in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and 3 U.S. territories. Data collected by these registries enable public health professionals to better understand and address the nation's cancer burden. To help disseminate these high-quality data, the NPCR and the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (SEER) collaborate to publish annual cancer incidence and death data in the *United States Cancer Statistics: Incidence and Mortality* reports.
- Through **colorectal cancer prevention and control initiatives**, CDC and its partners are promoting colorectal cancer screening nationwide. CDC-supported educational and research initiatives include the *Screen for Life: National Colorectal Cancer Action Campaign*, a screening demonstration program, and several scientific studies designed to determine the barriers to colorectal cancer screening. The *Screen for Life* campaign teaches Americans aged 50 years or older that colorectal cancer screening saves lives by finding precancerous polyps and detecting cancer early.

CDC is funding a 3-year demonstration program to learn how best to implement colorectal cancer screening at the community level. This program aims to increase colorectal cancer screening among low-income adults aged 50 or older, who have little or no health insurance coverage for regular screenings.
- Through **hematologic cancer initiatives**, CDC funds efforts to improve the awareness, diagnosis, understanding, and treatment of cancers of the blood and bone marrow (hematologic cancers). These efforts offer health care providers the latest information about how best to recognize the signs and symptoms of hematologic cancers and how best to treat these diseases. They also connect the public, people living with hematologic cancers, and the friends and families of people living with these diseases with resources for understanding the diseases better; asking the right questions about diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship; receiving optimal treatment; and finding community support networks.
- Through **lung cancer initiatives**, CDC is working to prevent and control lung cancer by 1) collecting critical data about who is being diagnosed with and dying of lung cancer in the United States, 2) supporting programs in states, tribes, and U.S. territories that strive to prevent and control tobacco use, and promote a healthy diet, 3) implementing public health interventions and countermarketing strategies to reduce smoking, and 4) maintaining a lung cancer Web site, www.cdc.gov/cancer/lung/.

- Through **ovarian cancer initiatives**, CDC is working with academic and medical institutions, state health departments, and advocacy groups to identify factors related to the early detection and treatment of ovarian cancer, about which little is known. Cancer registries in three states receive NPCR funds to evaluate care and outcomes for patients with ovarian cancer. Additionally, CDC's National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program funds ovarian cancer projects in Alabama, Colorado, and West Virginia.
- Through **prostate cancer initiatives**, CDC provides the public, physicians, and policy makers with the information they need to make informed decisions about the potential risks and benefits of prostate cancer screening. CDC materials include three versions of *Prostate Cancer Screening: A Decision Guide*—one for all men who are considering prostate cancer screening, and two additional guides for African American and Hispanic men. CDC also has developed a slide presentation, *Screening for Prostate Cancer: Sharing the Decision*, that gives primary care physicians information about the potential benefits and risks of screening.
- Through **skin cancer primary prevention and education initiatives**, CDC supports skin cancer monitoring, research, education, and interventions. CDC published the *Guidelines for School Programs to Prevent Skin Cancer* to spread the word about strategies that have reduced skin cancer risks among students aged 5–18 years. Additionally, CDC is working with state and local education agencies and other partners to put these strategies into practice in schools in Colorado, Michigan, and North Carolina.
- Through **cancer survivorship initiatives**, CDC is working with national, state, and local partners to create and implement successful strategies to help the millions of people in the United States who live with, through, and beyond cancer. An increasing number of people are surviving cancer. As the population of cancer survivors grows, the public health community is considering ways to address the issues related to survivorship. Survivorship is a broad term that refers not only to people who have been diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives, but also to the friends and family members of people who have been diagnosed with cancer.
- Through its **Tobacco Control Program**, CDC's Office on Smoking and Health provides national leadership for comprehensive efforts to reduce tobacco use through state and community interventions, countermarketing, policy development, surveillance, and evaluation. CDC also supports tobacco prevention and control efforts in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, 7 U.S. territories, 7 tribal groups, and 6 national networks. More information is available at www.cdc.gov/tobacco/.
- Through its **Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity**, CDC supports states by offering programs that promote a healthy diet. These programs include 5 A Day for Better Health, which encourages people to eat more fruits and vegetables. More information is available at www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa.

Future Directions

To further its overarching goal of ensuring that people are healthy in every stage of life, the CDC will:

- Enhance its relationships with partners and policy makers to increase the effectiveness of cancer prevention and control activities nationwide.
- Expand the use of information technology in cancer surveillance, particularly in cancer registries.
- Improve the cost-effectiveness of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.
- Expand CDC's focus to include malignancies not previously addressed, such as lung cancer and malignancies of the head and neck.
- Define the proper role for management of chronic diseases, including cancer, in the case of catastrophic disaster.

Contact Information

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