

NYS Cancer Consortium



Working Together, Reducing Cancer, Saving Lives

New York State Cancer Consortium

The New York State Cancer Consortium (NYSCC) represents the collective input and commitment of hundreds of organizations and individuals throughout the State, with the goal of eliminating cancer as a major health problem for all New Yorkers. With support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, stakeholders in New York have created the New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (NYSCCCP), a plan that envisions integrating the efforts of all those who care about reducing cancer in New York to enhance existing strengths in research, prevention, treatment and quality of life and build new initiatives in areas of unmet needs. The goals and strategies in the Plan are based on the principle of inclusive collaboration to ensure that all New Yorkers are reached by the best practices that are available to ultimately reduce the burden of cancer in New York State.

Why is Such a Major Effort Needed?

While we have made significant progress in New York over the last decade, primarily in reducing cancer-mortality, much remains to be done to better prevent and control cancer. Cancer is one of the most common chronic diseases in New York State, and is second only to heart disease as the leading cause of death. An estimated 100,060 people will be diagnosed with cancer in New York State in 2007—over 275 people each day of the year. An estimated 35,270 New Yorkers will die of cancer 2007—about 100 individuals each day. Four cancer sites account for 56% of the total cancer burden—lung, colorectal, breast and prostate cancers. These same four cancers are responsible for 51% of all cancer deaths in New York State.

What is Comprehensive Cancer Control (CCC)?

Comprehensive cancer control is defined as an integrated and coordinated approach to reducing cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality through prevention, early detection, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliation. Comprehensive cancer control is achieved through a partnership of public and private stakeholders whose common mission is to reduce the overall burden of cancer. This partnership mobilizes support for implementing priorities, puts in place coordinated activities, monitors progress over time, and reassesses priorities periodically in light of emerging developments in cancer and related fields.

To be “comprehensive” a program must address the entire continuum of cancer services from primary prevention to end-of-life; be interdisciplinary, engaging all professions involved in cancer control; and be inclusive of all cancers, population groups, and geographic regions

The concept of Comprehensive Cancer Control (CCC) was developed by the Centers for Disease Control, American Cancer Society, National Cancer Institute, and American College of Surgeons. Statewide planning and implementation of CCC were spearheaded by these organizations and are funded through the CDC. For information on the CDC’s Comprehensive Cancer Control activities, access their web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/ncccp/index.htm>.

How Was the New York State CCC Plan Developed?

The New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (NYSCCCP) was developed over a period of about 18 months beginning in fall 2001. The plan development process was coordinated through the combined leadership of the American Cancer Society and the New York State Department of Health. This process involved the partnership of hundreds of people and organizations. A Core Work Group coordinated the many facets of the Plan and ensured broad-based participation. Other state plans were reviewed and used as models for the New York Plan. Stakeholder surveys were sent to approximately 400 organizations and individuals to seek their ideas on key issues and solicit input on suggested goals and strategies. Nine Goal Development Teams were created, comprised of 65 experts and advocates, around the nine goal areas of the Plan, and a preliminary set of goals and strategies. Ten community forums were conducted across the State in which over 300 people reviewed and commented on a draft of the Plan. A two-day Leadership Summit was held where experts and advocates met to provide final review and comment on the Plan and to indicate their commitment to the implementation process.

The Final Plan was released in September of 2003 and incorporates nine major goal areas:

- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Early Detection
- Treatment
- Quality of Life
- Palliative Care
- Health Personnel
- Research
- Data and Surveillance
- Public Policy

What has the New York State Cancer Consortium accomplished?

Some of the accomplishments of the NYSCC to date are listed below:

- Statewide distribution of and communications about the Plan
- Demonstration projects in colorectal, prostate, ovarian and skin cancers carried out in various locations across the state
- Development of a Steering Committee and Implementation Workgroups (IWG) for each of the nine plan areas
- Implementation Workgroups developed workplans with local pilot projects and collaborative efforts in all the plan areas
- Quarterly meetings with the Directors of the Comprehensive Cancer Centers in New York State for discussion, input and priority setting with NYS Governor's Office
- Development of a new governance structure which includes general membership, a steering committee, advisory committees, and standing committees

- Establishment of standing committees on Evaluation, Communications, Implementation, Membership, and Policy
- Local implementation collaborations with rural health networks and other local stakeholders throughout the state
- Collaboration on the successful “Dialogue for Action” colorectal cancer grant application which funded a statewide meeting in June of 2006
- Brought together stakeholders from across the state for a symposium on ovarian cancer, discussing current issues in the field and recommendations for the future

Where Do We Go From Here?

Many of the goals of the New York State Cancer Consortium are set forth in the NYSCCCP. Over the next five years, Consortium efforts will focus on the following activities:

- Continued planning, consultation, technical assistance and activities throughout the state
- Collaborative efforts with the Cancer Center Directors group to advance comprehensive cancer control
- Expanded local implementation of the plan, including provision of guidance, two-way communication of best practices and other initiatives to enhance community efforts in reducing the burden of cancer
- Continued outreach to ensure that New Yorkers of all racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, geographic and cultural backgrounds are included as important stakeholders in Plan efforts
- Tracking, evaluation and public reporting of progress towards Plan goals

To implement these initiatives and reach the challenging goals embodied in the Plan, this effort needs the commitment of all New Yorkers. Please consider joining in the effort to eliminate cancer as a major health issue for New York.

For more information on the New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan and to obtain a membership application for the New York State Cancer Consortium:

Visit on the web at: http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/cancer/cancer_control/index.htm"

Or contact us: nyscccp@cancer.org