



NYSCC NEWSLETTER

CONSORTIUM NEWS:

On behalf of the Consortium, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Karen Schmitt for her many years of dedicated service as a Consortium Steering Committee Co-Chair and active member, and as Director of the Manhattan Cancer Services Program at New York Presbyterian Columbia University Medical Center and Co-Director of the Office of Community Outreach and Engagement at the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center. Congratulations on your retirement!

Cervical Cancer Awareness



January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. This is an important time to focus on education, prevention, and early detection. Regular screenings, like Pap and HPV tests, are crucial for catching cervical cancer early when it's most treatable.

To find resources on cervical cancer and how to reduce your risk, visit the [George Washington Cancer Center—Cervical Cancer Toolkit](#), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), and the [American Cancer Society Cervical Cancer Data Dashboard](#).

The Consortium's [Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) Coalition](#) provides information and resources on preventing cervical cancer through HPV vaccination.

Partner Spotlight: Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center



Passage from Alyson Moadel–Robblee, Ph.D. Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, Albert Einstein College of Medicine—Steering Committee Member:

This January marks the 3rd anniversary of the Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center's Cervical Cancer Screening Initiative, which aims to improve screening access in the Bronx. Funded by an American Cancer Society grant, the initiative hosts six Saturday events annually, offering education, transportation, financial assistance, and navigation support. Approximately 550 people have been screened, including nearly 70 first-time participants. Colorectal cancer screenings will start in 2024, followed by breast cancer screenings in 2025. A shuttle service helped a South Asian subcommunity receive their pap smears: [Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center's Novel Approach to Cervical Cancer Screening Breaks Down Barriers for Immigrant Women](#).

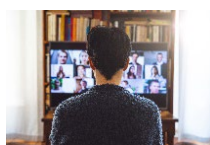
CONSORTIUM NEWS:

Social Media



The NYS Cancer Consortium is excited to connect with you on our social media platforms – [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)! Just click on these links or search for us using our handle, @nyscancerconsortium. We'll be sharing updates, like highlights for cancer awareness months and Action Team projects, along with other exciting initiatives. Make sure to check in regularly so you don't miss any of the fun! Join us in spreading the word and making a difference!

New Quarterly Member Meeting Series: Health Equity and Cancer



The Consortium would like to invite you to join our speakers, Dr. Tabassum Insaf; Director of the Bureau of Cancer Epidemiology - NYS Cancer Registry, and Kevin Malloy; Research Scientist, Center for Community Health - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) for the first session of the [Health Equity and Cancer Series](#), **January 16, 2025, at 11 AM**. After participating in this session, attendees should be able to describe the impact of health equity and interpret the distribution of cancer-related data by examining the different factors involved in data collection.

As New Yorkers and Consortium members, we share a commitment to understand health equity in cancer and to address cancer inequities in our communities.

[Register for January 16th now!](#)

Visit [Events | New York State Cancer Consortium](#) regularly for the latest updates!

Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change



Increasing Cancer Screenings through a Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change (PSE) Approach

The second session in the New York State Cancer Consortium's PSE Learning series will take place **Wednesday, February 5th, 2025 at 11 am**. Four Paid Time Off (PTO) for Cancer Screening policyholders will share what a PTO Policy for Cancer Screening is; why it is needed; how it is being used to increase cancer screening rates in their organizations; and how your organization or partners can work to adopt and support PTO Policies for Cancer Screening in your own communities and workplaces.

[Register for the February 5th Session Today](#)

Visit [NYSCC PSE Learning Series | New York State Cancer Consortium](#) for more information on the full series.

Meetings and Trainings



Please visit the ["Meetings and Trainings of Interest" page](#) on the [Consortium website](#). This regularly updated resource highlights a variety of meetings, training sessions, webinars, and events organized by NYS Cancer Consortium members and partners. If you would like to promote your event, please reach out to the Consortium via [email](#). You may also complete the [New York State Cancer Consortium Member Meeting and Training \(Event\) Submission Form](#) available at the top of the webpage.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN NEW YORK STATE?

Report: Binge and Heavy Drinking



New York State Department of Health encourages New Yorkers to decrease alcohol consumption in the New Year.

Binge drinking and heavy drinking are two forms of excessive alcohol use and are reported by almost one in five New York adults. Over 18% of adults in New York engage in excessive alcohol use in the form of binge or heavy drinking. Over 16% of adults reported binge drinking and 6.1% reported heavy drinking. The prevalence of binge drinking increased from 14.9% in 2021 to 16.6% in 2022.

Excessive alcohol use is one of the leading causes of premature death in the U.S. and is responsible for more than 178,000 deaths nationwide. In New York, excessive alcohol use causes more than 8,000 deaths annually.

Visit the sites below for more information:

[New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Brief \(Number 2024-08\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Alcohol and Public Health: Alcohol-Related Disease Impact \(ARDI\)](#)

[NYS Department of Health – Alcohol Use](#)

[NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Addressing Excessive Alcohol use: State Fact Sheets](#)

The Importance of Testing for Radon Exposure in New York State



Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer. More than 40 counties in New York State are considered high risk for elevated indoor radon. The only way to know if you have a radon problem is to test. The New York State Department of Health offers low-cost radon test kits. Order yours now at <https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/radon/>

To reduce the burden of cancer diagnoses from known environmental carcinogens like radon in New York State through data monitoring, education, and supporting legislation at the city and state levels we invite you to join the [Environmental Carcinogens Action Team](#).

[Become a Member Today!](#)

New York's First Cell and Gene Therapy Hub Opens at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo



This facility is dedicated to advancing the research and development of life-saving cell and gene therapies. These innovative treatments aim to modify a patient's cells or genes to tackle diseases right at their source. The Roswell Park GMP Engineering & Cell Manufacturing Facility (GEM) is particularly focused on creating cell and gene therapies to combat solid-tumor cancers. The push for developing cell therapies that specifically target common solid tumors—such as those found in the breast, colon, and lung—represents a crucial objective for cancer researchers.

[Comprehensive Cancer Center In Buffalo | Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center - Buffalo, NY](#)

RESOURCES:

Improving Patient Engagement in Cervical Cancer Prevention:



Improving Patient Engagement in Cervical Cancer Prevention: Communication Toolkit for Health Centers and Safety-net Settings of Care is for staff at health centers and safety-net settings that are committed to preventing cervical cancer. Staff can use this new Patient Engagement Toolkit to encourage cervical cancer prevention among existing patients and others in the community. Materials include social media posts, posters, a cervical screening follow-up card, and more. The toolkit and materials are available in English and Spanish.

Visit [Federal Cervical Cancer Collaborative Resources | HRSA](#) for more information.

National Roundtable for Cervical Cancer - Cervical Cancer Data Dashboard:



The dashboard offers an interactive geospatial view of data on cervical cancer in the United States. It includes information on incidence, mortality, and other demographic factors that could influence incidence and mortality.

Visit [Data Dashboard – NRTCC](#) for more information.

The Consortium recognizes the following opportunities for advocacy and recognition during January and February.

January: [Radon Awareness Month](#), [Thyroid Awareness Month](#), [National Blood Donor Month](#)

February: [National Women's Physician Day 2/3](#), [World Cancer Day 2/4](#), [National Cancer Prevention Month](#), [National Women and Girls Science Day 2/11](#), [International Childhood Cancer Day 2/15](#)

The mission of the Consortium is to reduce the human and economic burden of cancer in NYS. Information in this email is provided as a resource to members of the New York State Cancer Consortium on topics related to the New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. The views, opinions, and content included in this e-mail are those of the authors or event hosts and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the New York State Department of Health or the New York State Cancer Consortium.

[New York State Cancer Consortium | Working Together, Reducing Cancer, Saving Lives](#)