



NYSCC END OF YEAR E-BLAST

Consortium News	Colorectal Cancer	Environmental Carcinogens	Healthy Eating & Active Living	HPV Coalition	Lung Cancer Screening	Skin Cancer	Survivorship	Resources and Data of Interest	Funding Opportunities	Meetings & Trainings
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"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 NYS 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."

We want to hear from you!

If you have any successes, reports, and/or trainings you would like to share, please send them to cancerconsortium@health.ny.gov

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The more we work together, the greater impact we will have towards preventing and controlling cancer in New York State. [Click Here to Join](#)

CONSORTIUM NEWS AND UPDATES

Quarterly Meeting Series: *The Consortium in Action*



Next up in the Consortium in Action Series:

- **Environmental Carcinogen Action Team Presents**
Tuesday Mar 12, 2024, 11:00AM - 12:30PM [Register Here](#)
- **HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Action Team Presents**
Thursday, June 20, 2024, 11:00AM - 12:30PM [Register Here](#)

View Past Member Meetings Including:

- **Cancer Survivorship:** Improving Care, Bolstering our Workforce
- **Lung Cancer Screening Action Team Presents:** The Consortium in Action
- Taking a Jab at Cancer Prevention: **Closing the HPV Vaccination Gap** in New York State
- **Addressing the Cancer Burden in LGBTQ+ Communities:** A Training from the National LGBT Cancer Network

The NYS Cancer Consortium Action Teams are groups of Consortium members who work together to implement the [New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan's](#) priority areas while making an impact to reduce the burden of cancer in NYS. This month's e-blast will highlight the 2023 successes of each Action Team.

Colorectal Cancer

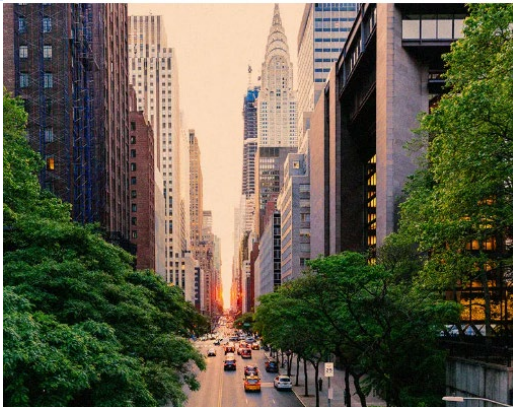
The Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Action Team started 2023 by presenting '*Successes and Challenges with Colorectal Cancer Screening in Rural Communities*' to the New York State Association for Rural Health and the New England Rural Health Association. For the remainder of 2023, the Action Team developed the following goals and priorities for action over the next two years:

1. Promote awareness about the rising rates of colon cancer in younger adults among providers and the public.
2. Promote awareness to patients and providers about no cost-sharing coverage of colonoscopy after abnormal stool tests.
3. Achieve equitable outcomes in CRC screening.
4. Promote CRC screening options to include ensuring timely colonoscopy after an abnormal stool test.

In support of these goals, the team has developed and disseminated information about coverage of colonoscopy after abnormal stool test (goal 2). Also in 2023, several organizations presented information at Team meetings to inform work towards these goals, including the Association of Black Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists, a national non-profit organization whose mission is to promote health equity in Black communities with a vision to improve gastrointestinal health outcomes, and Stupid Cancer, Inc., whose mission is to empower everyone affected by adolescent and young adult cancer by ending isolation and building community (goals 1 and 3).



Environmental Carcinogens



In June 2023, the Environmental Carcinogens Action team, along with partners from the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center at Columbia University Medical Center, Weill Cornell Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, Stony Brook Cancer Center, Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Center, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Centers, and the Silent Spring Institute hosted a one-day conference called *The Environment and Cancer Forum*.

The forum featured panel discussions on the state of the science on environmental carcinogens, a review of the cancer burden in New York State, presentations on policy systems change and personal level exposures, and a segment on reducing community level risks through policy and institutional change. There were 225 attendees in person and on zoom and 45 doctors and 38 nurses earned continuing education credit for this course. Access the [course recording here](#)

HEAL (Healthy Eating and Active Living)

Over the past year, the Lifestyle Behaviors Action Team has evolved into the newly named Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) Action Team. The name change represents the Action Team's collective focus for 2024 on issues of food insecurity as a primary and secondary cancer prevention strategy.

Food insecurity is the lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. By definition, food insecurity is not a lifestyle behavior but a social determinant and a barrier to living a healthier lifestyle. One of the team's major objectives was to understand the magnitude of this issue across New York State. The Action Team formed a "Metrics Working Group" that used publicly available data from the New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System to develop Action Team workplan objectives and recommended objectives for use in the next New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan covering 2024 through 2029. The Action Team is also developing a web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) resource for use by cancer survivors across New York State who experience food insecurity to locate information and resources to access and meet their nutrition needs.



HPV Coalition



The New York State Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Coalition had a busy 2023! One of its biggest initiatives aimed to promote the *Start at 9* campaign, to encourage providers and parents to vaccinate their children for human papilloma virus starting at age 9. The Team worked with Coalition members and other organizations across the state, encouraging them to endorse the *Start at 9* campaign and share a provider letter highlighting the importance of starting the vaccine series at age 9. Over 50 organizations endorsed the campaign, including New York State Department of Health, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, American Academy of Pediatricians (AAP), New York State Academy of Family Physicians (AFP), Empire BlueCross, Catholic Health, Bassett Healthcare Network, and the Community HealthCare Association of New York State (CHCANYS). Visit the [Start at 9 landing page](#) on the HPV Coalition website.

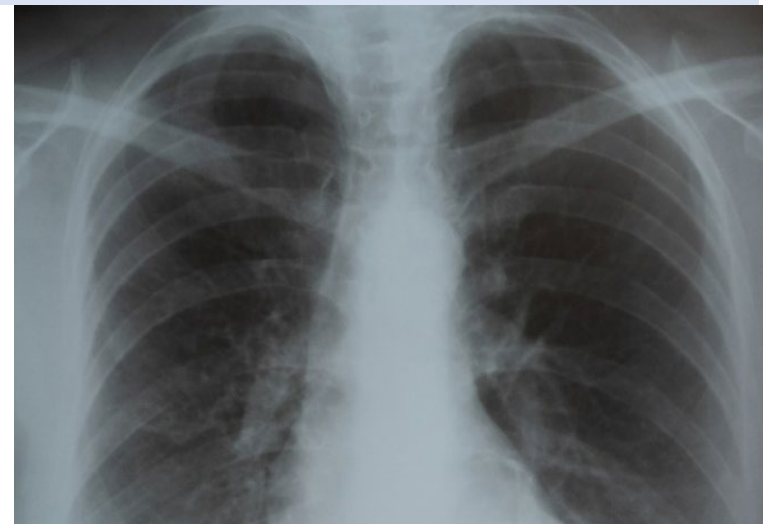
The HPV Coalition also distributed HPV Honor Roll awards for clinics with the highest HPV vaccination rates in the state and most improved rates in each of ten New York State regions. Winners received a certificate and a press release to share with local news sources about their achievement. There was one statewide High Honor awardee (at or above 90% HPV vaccination completion rates), two statewide Honor awardees (at or above 80% to < 90% HPV vaccination completion rates), and two Most Improved awardees in each region. The list of winners can be found on the HPV Coalition [website](#).

The HPV Coalition is planning a 2024 statewide HPV vaccination Summit to engage providers and community partners on the importance of HPV vaccination at age 9 and how to decrease disparities in vaccination in lower vaccinated counties and regions.

Lung Cancer Screening

The Lung Cancer Screening Action Team (LCSAT) is conducting a statewide lung cancer screening environmental scan, a project supported by Genentech. The scan aims to enumerate every location offering lung cancer screening across the state. While the Action Team continues to identify additional sites, they created a publicly available, searchable screening locator website, launched in November at <https://nylungcancerscreening.com>. The site contains just over **330** locations to date.

The Action Team has much in the works for 2024. While efforts will continue on the environmental scan, they will also continue to forge a partnership with the New York State Quitline to disseminate lung cancer screening information to eligible callers. The Team will also work with partners at the American Lung Association and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network on policies to improve access to lung cancer screening, and collaborate with the GO2 Foundation and the Association of Community Cancer Centers to educate providers about lung cancer screening.



Skin Cancer



In 2023, the Action Team implemented a mobile skin cancer screening initiative in underserved communities with limited healthcare access. Specially equipped vans provided preventive screenings directly to these communities, ensuring accessibility to individuals who may otherwise face barriers in receiving essential healthcare services. Efforts concentrated on community living centers catering to elderly patients, recognizing the heightened vulnerability of this demographic to skin cancers.

In collaboration with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, the Team extended outreach and education efforts to firefighters, a population at an elevated risk of skin cancers due to occupational exposure. Some members conducted screenings within the firefighting community. Hundreds of individuals who had not been previously targeted for such interventions were screened through the mobile and firefighter initiatives. Outcomes were particularly impactful, as high-risk individuals identified during the process were promptly referred to dermatologists for further evaluation. This initiative expanded the reach of preventive healthcare and underscored the significance of collaborative efforts in addressing specific health concerns within diverse populations.

In 2024, The Action Team will focus on strategies to provide natural shade and sunscreen to communities and will continue to provide local education and outreach about skin cancer risk.

Survivorship

The Survivorship Action Team will continue provider education activities begun in 2023 into 2024, including a multi-institutional (Columbia, Roswell Park, Bassett Health) Nurse Practitioner Special Fellowship in Cancer Survivorship. The Team aims to expand the number of Nurse Practitioners recruited into the Fellowship in 2024. In collaboration with the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) the Action Team is developing a white paper on cancer screening and prevention, with contributions about specific issues for survivors.

In addition, the Action Team participates and shares best practices and opportunities in the New Hampshire State Cancer Coalition and New Hampshire State Commission on Cancer Chairs about Survivorship: Barriers, Challenges and Opportunities.

In partnership with the New York State Department of Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Action Team will implement a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded ECHO Project to train primary care clinic teams about cancer survivorship. The focus will be on clinic teams that provide care to rural and underserved/under-resourced populations across the state. Curriculum, faculty, and selection of practices is in progress with the [ECHO program](#) slated to begin in January 2024. Interested, eligible primary care teams can [register at this link](#).

Finally, the Action Team contributed to New York State Cancer Consortium activities, presenting *New York State Cancer Survivorship: Improving Care, Bolstering our Workforce* to the Consortium and partners on December 14th and contributing to development of the 2024-2029 New York State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan by providing expertise on survivorship-related objectives, goals and strategies.



Resources and Data of Interest

Based on data from the 2020 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, [Breast Cancer Screening, New York State Adult Females, 2021](#) presents data on the estimated percent of populations with a breast cancer screening history aligning with the United States Preventive Services Task Force screening recommendations. Key findings from the report include:

- An estimated 78.2% of females 50 to 74 years were up to date with screening recommendations, declining from prior years and falling below the Healthy People 2030 objective of 80.5% for the first time since 2016.
- The decrease in reported screening is consistent with national findings and is likely due to healthcare disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Disparities in reported screening were seen among those with the lowest household income, without health insurance, without a regular health care provider, and among those with a disability.
- Significant differences in reported screening were also seen by known risk factors for breast cancer, including lack of physical activity and smoking.

- Of those who reported not having received a mammogram within the past two years, 95.2% (an estimated 500,600 females) were insured, and 90.9% (an estimated 495,100 females) had a regular health care provider (data not shown), representing missed opportunities for screening.

The updated [Sun Exposure and Sunburn, New York State Adults, 2021](#) report provides data on the prevalence of skin cancer risk factors, sun exposure and sunburn, from the 2021 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. According to the report:

- Across the state, 28.0% of adults report they rarely or never protect themselves from the sun, which is a significant improvement from 33.6% of adults in 2019.
- Adults who live in New York City (NYC) (31.8%), are living with disability (32.0%), identify as Hispanic (34.7%) or Non-Hispanic Black (36.0%), are men (36.3%), and have less than a high school education (41.4%) are more likely to rarely or never protect themselves from the sun.
- Lack of practicing sun-protective behaviors is more common among adults who currently smoke, who binge or heavy drink, or who are physically inactive.
- Nearly 27% of NYS adults report having had at least one sunburn in the past 12 months.
- Having a sunburn is more common among adults who are living without disability (29.8%), live outside of NYC (31.3%), are employed or self-employed (33.3%), earn an annual household income of \$50,000 or more (33.7%), and identify as non-Hispanic White (38.3%).

Funding Opportunities

- Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for [Model Continuums of Care Initiative \(MCCI\) to Advance Health Equity Among Women and Girls in Racial/Ethnic Minority and Other Marginalized Communities](#) (U34 Clinical Trials Required)
- [Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program](#)
- [Impacts of climate change across the cancer control continuum](#) (R21 Clinical Trial Optional)
- [Exploratory Grant Award to Promote Workforce Diversity in Basic Cancer Research \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)
- Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for [Consortium for Palliative Care Research Across the Lifespan](#) (U54 Clinical Trial Required)
- [Comprehensive Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity](#) (CPACHE) (U54 Clinical Trial Optional)
- [Population Approaches to Reducing Alcohol-related Cancer Risk](#) (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)
- [Supporting Young Breast Cancer Survivors, Metastatic Breast Cancer Patients, and their Families](#)
- [Interventions to expand cancer screening and preventive services to ADVANCE health in populations that experience health disparities](#) (R01, Clinical Trial Required)
- [Pioneering Ideas: Exploring the Future to Build a Culture of Health](#)
- [Indigenous-Led Solutions to Advance Health Equity and Wellbeing](#)
- [Policies for Action: Policy Research to Advance the Inclusion of Immigrant Families and Children](#)
- [Evidence for Action: Innovative Research to Advance Racial Equity](#)

Meetings & Trainings of Interest

ASCO Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium: January 18-20, 2024 in San Francisco, CA and Online. [More information and Registration here](#)

New Lead Time Messaging Guidebook: A Tool to Encourage On-Time Colo-rectal Cancer Screening Please join the American Cancer Society National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT) for a webinar on **January 22, 2024, from 2:00-3:00 PM ET** to learn more about this new resource and the market research that helped inform this work. [Register here](#)

[Registration is open](#) for the **Colon Cancer Foundation's Early-Age Onset Colorectal Cancer Summit, February 9 – 10, 2024** in Nashville, TN.

Self-paced course: [Sexual Health and Cancer Survivorship | The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences \(gwu.edu\)](#)

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1/9 – [New Treatments for Childhood Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia \(ALL\)](#) (teleconference/webcast)

1/10 – [The Benefits of Clinical Trials for Triple Negative Breast Cancer](#) (teleconference/webcast)

1/17 – [Updates in the Treatment of Estrogen Receptor \(ER\) Positive, Progesterone Receptor \(PR\) Positive and HER2 Positive Breast Cancer from the 46th Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium \(SABCS\), Part II of Living with Breast Cancer: Updates from the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium](#) (teleconference/webcast)

1/19 – [Addressing the LGBTQI+ Health Disparities Gap](#) (teleconference/webcast)

1/24 – [Bladder Cancer: Treatment Updates, Part I of Living with Bladder Cancer](#) (teleconference/webcast)

1/31 – [For Caregivers: Practical Tips to Cope with a Loved One's Bladder Cancer, Part II of Living with Bladder Cancer](#) (teleconference/webcast)

2/7 – [Breast Cancer in Younger Women: New Treatment Options](#) (teleconference/webcast)

2/27 – [Advances in the Treatment of Colorectal Cancer](#) (teleconference/webcast)

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