

# CA CONNections

Member Newsletter of The Connecticut Cancer Partnership



## May 2017 May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month

### Skin Cancer as a Major Public Health Problem

Skin cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States, and most cases are preventable.<sup>1-3</sup> Skin cancer greatly affects quality of life, and it can be disfiguring or even deadly.<sup>1,4-6</sup> Medical treatment for skin cancer creates substantial health care costs for individuals, families, and the nation. The number of Americans who have had skin cancer at some point in the last three decades is estimated to be higher than the number for all other cancers combined,<sup>7</sup> and skin cancer incidence rates have continued to increase in recent years.<sup>1,8</sup>

Each year in the United States, nearly 5 million people are treated for all skin cancers combined, with an annual cost estimated at \$8.1 billion.<sup>9</sup> Melanoma is responsible for the most deaths of all skin cancers, with nearly 9,000 people dying from it each year.<sup>10</sup> It is also one of the most common types of cancer among U.S. adolescents and young adults.<sup>11</sup> Annually, about \$3.3 billion of skin cancer treatment costs are attributable to melanoma.<sup>9</sup>

Despite efforts to address skin cancer risk factors, such as inadequate sun protection and intentional tanning behaviors, skin cancer rates, including rates of melanoma, have continued to increase in the United States and worldwide.<sup>1,12-16</sup> With adequate support and a unified approach, comprehensive, communitywide efforts to prevent skin cancer can work. Although such success will require a sustained commitment and coordination across diverse partners and sectors, significant reductions in illness, deaths, and health care costs related to skin cancer can be achieved.

### Skin Cancer Prevention: Five Strategic Goals

The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer calls on partners in prevention from various sectors across the nation to address skin cancer as a major public health problem. Federal, state, tribal, local, and territorial governments; members of the business, health care, and education sectors; community, nonprofit, and faith-based organizations; and individuals and families are all essential partners in this effort. The Call to Action presents the following five strategic goals to support skin cancer prevention in the United States: increase opportunities for sun protection in outdoor settings; provide individuals with the information they need to make informed, healthy choices about ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure; promote policies that advance the national goal of preventing skin cancer; reduce harms from indoor

The Connecticut Cancer Partnership unites the members of our state's diverse cancer community—academic and clinical institutions, state and local government health agencies, industry and insurers, advocacy and community groups, and cancer survivors. Together, the coalition has developed and is now implementing a comprehensive plan to reduce the suffering and death due to cancer, and improve the quality of life of cancer survivors throughout Connecticut.

Visit our newly improved website:  
[ctcancerpartnership.org](http://ctcancerpartnership.org)

### Lung Force Expo

The 2017 Hartford LUNG FORCE Expo will take place on May 24, 2017 at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill, CT. Keynote speaker Roy Herbst of Yale Cancer Center will speak about lung cancer treatment and clinical trials. Breakfast and lunch will be provided and emergency oxygen will be available.

[Register here](#)

tanning; and strengthen research, surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation related to skin cancer prevention.

[Read the Surgeon General's Executive summary here](#)

[Sun Safety Resources](#)

[From NCI](#)

## Colorectal Cancer and Lower Educational Attainment: A Way to Focus Screening Efforts

Years of Life and Productivity Loss from Potentially Avoidable Colorectal Cancer Deaths in U.S. Counties with Lower Educational Attainment, (EA)

A study led by Hannah Weir, PhD, found that colorectal cancer death rates are higher in counties with lower average education attainment (EA) levels.

Educational attainment is inversely associated with colorectal cancer risk. Colorectal cancer screening can save lives if precancerous polyps or early cancers are found and successfully treated. This study estimated the potential productivity loss (PPL) and associated avoidable colorectal cancer-related deaths among screen-eligible adults residing in lower EA counties in the United States.

EA disparities contribute to a large number of potentially avoidable colorectal cancer-related deaths. Increased prevention and improved screening potentially could decrease deaths and help reduce the associated economic burden in lower EA communities. Increased screening could further reduce deaths in all EA groups.

[Read article here](#)

## Disparities in Life Expectancy Persist

A recent Vital Signs report ([read it here](#)) from CDC addresses lingering differences in life expectancy despite improvements over the past few decades. Optimizing health for all U.S. residents while also eliminating disparities, remains an integral part of disease prevention and health promotion activities.

Although significant strides have been made in the United States in the last 17 years, disparities still exist. To continue to improve the health of the black population, there is a continued need to translate research results into effective universal and targeted interventions across the lifespan to inform action. ...substantial differences in mortality, health behaviors, access to health care, and social factors across the life span ...analysis highlight the importance of a dual strategy of universal and targeted interventions to address disparities in black health

Opportunities for interventions have been identified that decision-makers, public health programs, clinicians, and communities can use. The Community Preventive Services Task Force has recommendations for interventions with proven effectiveness for the prevention of obesity, physical inactivity, tobacco use, promotion of cancer screening, and medication adherence ([The Community Guide](#)).

To ensure continued progress in improving health for all U.S. residents, targeted interventions for populations living in vulnerable social and economic conditions (e.g., poverty or racially segregated neighborhoods with fewer resources) also should be considered. The U.S. Department

## CTAAP

### HPV Webinar

You Are The Key:  
Getting into the  
Routine of  
Recommending  
Cancer Prevention  
in Connecticut

Thursday, May  
18th, 2017  
12:10pm - 1:00pm

*Speakers: Linda  
Nicolai and Jill  
Roark.*

Vaccines against human papillomavirus (HPV) have been recommended in the United States since 2006 but coverage remains unacceptably low. We will discuss the challenges that clinicians may face in providing effective recommendations for vaccination, and provide strategies to overcome these barriers.

CMEs available

[Sign up online](#)

## Submissions

Please submit articles and/or suggestions to:

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CA CONNections  
is produced by the  
Connecticut Cancer  
Partnership

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of Health and Human Services Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities promotes targeted interventions to reduce these disparities ([Action Plan](#))

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In addition, The Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program, which supports targeted interventions through community-based, participatory approaches, identified strategies to address health disparities for blacks and other racial/ethnic populations to reduce the gap in health disparities, these findings suggest an ongoing need for universal and targeted interventions that address the leading causes of deaths among blacks (especially cardiovascular disease and cancer and their risk factors) across the life span and create equal opportunities for health.

## [Racial Disparities](#)



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