

Introduction

The Connecticut Cancer Partnership, a coalition comprising volunteers representing 150 organizations and hundreds of individual members involved in cancer control from around the state, presents the **Connecticut Cancer Plan, 2021-2026**. This Plan, a road map for controlling cancer in our state, addresses prevention, early detection, and treatment, as well as quality of life for patients and survivors and for those facing the end of life. We recognize first and foremost that differences in cancer outcomes based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, social determinants of health (SDoH), and other factors exist in our state. Therefore, a primary goal is to carefully assess the impact of policies and practices that can help improve health equity and eliminate cancer disparities.

Organization of the Plan

The Plan's narrative flows from a general concept goal statement to focused priority areas which then narrow down to measurable objectives needed to achieve the goal. Suggested strategies have been drawn from evidence-based best practices that can make progress toward each measurable objective. This flow enables members of the cancer control community across the state to zero in on a role they can play to reduce the burden of cancer in Connecticut.

- Goal 1 is the inclusive and overarching focus on improving health equity
- Goals 2 - 5 represent elements of the cancer continuum: prevention, early detection, treatment, and quality of life from diagnosis through end of life
- Each goal is broken down into priority areas
- Background about each priority area, including data on disparities, is provided, detailing why that issue is identified as a Connecticut cancer control priority
- Measurable objectives with baselines and targets to be achieved by 2026 are offered, when available
- Action and evidence-based strategies are suggested to make progress toward the goal
- Resource notes follow each strategy section

Many strategies that can reduce the burden of cancer in Connecticut can be implemented across the continuum of cancer control. These cross-cutting approaches fall into three basic categories. Since Connecticut's greatest cancer control challenges lie in reducing disparities, the primary focus of this Plan is 1) to promote health equity. Since social determinants of health (SDoH) cut across all measures of well-being, effective solutions often lie in 2) policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) approaches to change. Finally, measuring progress through 3) evaluation will continue to guide the work of the cancer control community moving through and after the duration of this Plan.