



TIP SHEET Cancer Health Disparities

A cancer health disparity is a significant difference in the occurrence, rate of deaths, and burden of cancer and related health outcomes that happen among specific population groups in the United States.

What are Some Contributing Factors?

Cancer health disparities are complex and are caused by persistent societal problems that result in greater suffering and poorer health among racial, ethnic, and underserved groups. The most obvious factors are associated with a lack of health care coverage and low socioeconomic status.

Many different factors influence our health and well-being and while race and ethnic differences are seen in health outcomes, several social factors play a role, including:

- Education and literacy level
- Social status
- Neighborhood factors
- Racial bias and discrimination
- Access to nutritious food
- Lifestyle factors
- Cultural beliefs

Native Americans have a greater risk of developing and dying of kidney cancers. Incidence rates have increased faster in native populations than in whites.

Hispanics in the US have higher incidence and mortality rates for cancers of the stomach, liver, and uterine cervix, all of which are related to infectious agents.

What YOU can do to Take Charge of Your Health

- Find a health care provider
- Talk to your doctor about your family health history and cancer screening
- Change risk factors that you control

• **Quit Smoking:** Stopping smoking is the single most effective thing you can do to lower your cancer risk.

• **Eat more fruits and veggies**

• **Move more!** Walk the dog, play with the kids, climb the stairs instead of riding the elevator.

MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER AT A LATER STAGE WHEN TREATMENT OPTIONS ARE LIMITED.

DID YOU KNOW...?

White women get breast cancer more often, but African American women die more often from the disease.

African American men get prostate cancer more than any other group and are more than 2 times as likely to die from it compared to white men.

Contact Us

For more information about health disparities, or to schedule events for your organization, call RPCI's Office of Cancer Health Disparities Research at (716) 845-4557 or go to www.roswellpark.edu/prevention/cancer-health-disparities.



1-877-ASK-RPCI (1-877-275-7724) | www.roswellpark.org





What We're Doing

RPCI is dedicated to research aimed at understanding cancer health disparities and to developing community-based services and educational programs tailored to meet the needs of populations most at risk for cancer diagnosis and mortality.

- **Buffalo/Niagara Witness Project** teaches the importance of early cancer detection through stories told by breast and cervical cancer survivors, hosted in churches and community settings.
- **Esperanza y Vida (Hope and Life)** is a bilingual program aimed at increasing breast and cervical cancer screening in Latinas living in both urban and rural areas, and helping to reduce barriers to cancer care.
- **MANUP (Men Allied for the Need to Understand Prostate Cancer)** provides information to help men of color make informed decisions about prostate cancer screening, treatment and survivorship.

Now U Know is a cancer education and community outreach program run by RPCI's Office of Cancer Health Disparities Research (OCHDR) that welcomes churches, community groups and other organizations to partner for cancer education and screening. We provide cancer information, screening and support services, especially to those within minority or underserved communities. Last year, we provided service throughout WNY, which included:

- Education on breast, prostate, lung and colorectal cancers
- Smoking cessation, nutrition and general cancer education
- Cancer screening, patient navigation and follow-up

**NOW
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Meet the Team

(above from left to right)

- 1) Terry Alford**
Community Relations Coordinator
- 2) Bertha Brinson**
Community Health Worker
Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center
- 3) Raymond Caruana, MS, Ed**
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- 4) Isnory Colón**
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- 5) Jomary Colón**
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- 15) Elisa Rodriguez, PhD, MS**
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- 16) Richard Satterwhite**
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- 17) Willie Underwood III, MD, MSc, MPH**
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- 18) Christy Widman**
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