

2021-2022 Pennsylvania Cancer Prevention and Control Annual Report

**Pennsylvania Cancer
Control, Prevention and
Research Advisory Board**

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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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2021 – 2022 Cancer Annual Report

Executive Summary

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Cancer Control, Prevention and Research Act (Act 33 of 2006), below are summary highlights of the 2021-2022 Cancer Prevention and Control Annual Report for the Governor and General Assembly. This report that was previously submitted by the Pennsylvania Cancer Control, Prevention, and Research Advisory Board (CAB) has been prepared and submitted by the leadership team from the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, which is comprised of the Pa Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (PACCCP), Pa Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program (PA-BCCEDP) and the Pa Cancer Registry (PCR).

Since September 21, 2017, there have been no newly appointed CAB members on the board. This has made the CAB inactive and non-productive. The CAB did not have a quorum at the September 15, 2022, meeting and therefore the CAB responsibilities related to cancer research, prevention and control are currently being managed through the PA Department of Health.

Due to the lack of appointments to the CAB, the board is unable to function in its advisory capacity as mandated in the Pennsylvania Cancer Control, Prevention and Research Act, Act of Dec 16, 1980. The PA DOH Health Research Office is managing approvals and allocation of ACT 39 of 2017 and Act 73 of 2018 pediatric cancer research donations.

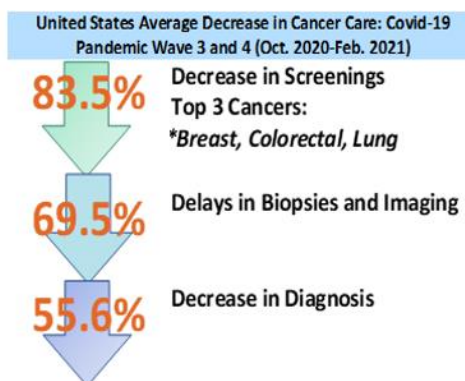
The PACCCP receives limited funding through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Cancer Prevention and Control federal grant. The Program is responsible for state cancer plan development and sustaining an active statewide cancer coalition, which is responsible for implementing the cancer plan. [2019-2023 Pennsylvania Cancer Control Plan.pdf](#).

Cancer continues to be the second leading cause of death in Pennsylvania. Data from the Pennsylvania Cancer Statistics Dashboard shows an overall *increase* of invasive cancer diagnosis of 2.6% from 2018 to 2019. In 2019, 78,404 adults were diagnosed with cancer and 27,628 died. Breast, lung, prostate, and colorectal cancers account for 49% of the invasive cancer diagnosis for adults. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in men and women followed by colorectal cancers. Screening is available for prevention and/or early diagnosis for each of the top four most diagnosed cancers, yet Pennsylvania receives funding only for breast and cervical cancer screening services for uninsured or under insured females.

Additionally, 599 children, under age 20 were diagnosed with cancer and 75 children under the age of 20 died from cancer. Leukemia and brain cancers accounted for over one third of all pediatric cancer diagnoses. Since 2010, solid tumor cancers (brain and nervous system) have surpassed leukemia as the leading cause of cancer deaths in children under age 20.

For 2021-2022, the Covid-19 pandemic continued to have a negative impact on cancer control and prevention strategies across the Commonwealth. Cancer screenings, diagnosis, and initiation of treatment in the United States were significantly reduced at the onset of the pandemic and continued through pandemic Wave 4 in February 2021 (Figure 1). Health systems and organizations have also experienced pandemic-related reductions in the workforce which has impacted the speed in which the “catch-up” can occur.

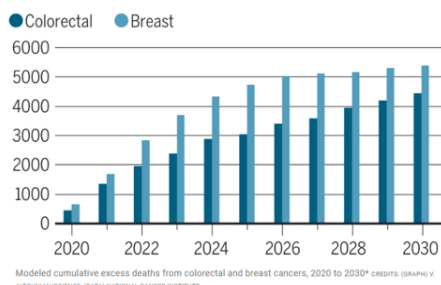
Figure 1: Decrease in Cancer Care



Source: <https://www.iqvia.com/library/publications/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-cancer-treatment-in-the-us>

Figure 2: Modeled Excess Deaths from Colorectal and Breast Cancer

Modeled cumulative excess deaths from colorectal and breast cancers, 2020 to 2030*



Source: National Cancer Institute

The National Cancer Institute created a forecasting model (Figure 2) which show the anticipated excess of colorectal and breast cancer deaths in the U.S. through 2030, as an effect of Covid-19.

The Division of Cancer Control and Prevention and the Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition remain committed to the mission of reducing cancer incidence and mortality in Pennsylvania. PA cancer registry and survey data will continue to be used to focus cancer plan implementation strategies, inform decision and policy makers, and educate stakeholders and the public.

Funding

State Appropriated Funds (2021-2022)

Fund 10-493 - Regional cancer institutes	\$1,200,000
Fund 11-014 – Cancer screening services	\$2,563,000
Pediatric Cancer Research (Donations)	\$799,530

Regional Cancer Institutes

Total state appropriation	\$1,200,000
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The information below reflects on the activities that were accomplished by each cancer institute using the limited amount of state funding allocated to comprehensive cancer control and implementation of the state cancer plan.

Northeast Regional Cancer Institute \$300,000

- Facilitated over 850 breast, cervical and colon and lung cancer screenings among the underserved population through their patient navigation program
- Reduced structural barriers to cancer screenings such as transportation, language, and education for over 2,494 individuals
- Provided individualized education to over 1,400 individuals increasing awareness of the importance of cancer screening, identification, and resolution of barriers to screening, and facilitation of timely access to screening services and ongoing medical care via connection to a medical home
- Assisted with cost reduction or free services for screening, diagnostic and treatment expenses for 211 individuals through the Navigation Program
- Provided cancer genetic testing information and facilitated referrals to genetic professionals for 17 individuals
- Distributed over 1,900 client reminders to facilitate screening completion
- Conducted 14 community outreach programs (all virtual) with over 301 participants to promote screening awareness and increase knowledge of resources

University of Pittsburgh \$300,000

- Provided education to 1263 individuals. Over 750 individuals received the fecal immunochemical test (FIT) colorectal cancer screening education.
- Distributed FIT colorectal cancer screening kits to over 464 individuals (74% were returned, 9% had positive findings)
- Provided colonoscopies to twelve individuals who were uninsured
- Provided breast and/or cervical cancer screening services (including vouchers and free screenings) to 165 women. Patients received a call from an advanced practice nurse regarding their screening findings (positive or negative) and recommendations, as well as assistance regarding next steps, if necessary
- Navigated a total of 127 total patients for breast and/or cervical cancer screenings, of which 55% were Spanish speaking. There were 51 screening mammograms ordered and 9 diagnostic mammograms ordered; 38 cervical cancer screenings provided onsite
- Evaluated all men seen for prostate cancer screening eligibility and 32 men participated in an *informed decision-making* conversation
- Provided genetic testing and clinical trial conversations on an as needed basis
- Provided education to 35 individuals and healthcare providers about lung cancer screening with low dose Computerized Tomography (CT), resulting in 15 physician referrals for low-dose CT screening
- Enrolled 145 women in the PA- Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (PA-BCCEDP)
- Educated 1,263 individuals on healthy lifestyles and the risks of secondhand smoke: 34 referrals to smoking cessation programs; 275 were educated regarding the risks of smoking and the use of tobacco products
- Held 12 outreach events virtually or within clinics that are serving individuals who are un/under insured
- Provided 5,360 students with Power of Choice programming to increase physical activity and promote healthy dietary habits for children in K-12
- Provided Human papillomavirus (HPV) and the HPV vaccine education to 375 individuals

Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.....\$300,000

- Provided breast cancer screening services to 800 individuals; 630 individuals were navigated, and 718 individuals completed a screening or diagnostic exam
- Navigated 325 individuals to colorectal cancer screening services with 70 individuals completing a colonoscopy screening
- Evaluated and treated 290 young adult survivors of pediatric cancer (86 new) in the multi-specialty, collaborative cancer survivorship clinic
- Evaluated and treated 1,432 adult survivors of breast and testicular/germ cell cancer in the multi-specialty, collaborative survivorship clinic
- Provided education through a virtual conference to 283 survivors of lung cancer and 543 survivors of breast cancer
- Provided cancer screening reminders to 2,027 clients via phone, email, text, or face to face
- Provided psychosocial services for patients with breast, prostate, colorectal and uterine, leukemia and lymphoma cancers: All cancer patients were screened (over 2,000) and 798 new individuals were navigated, evaluated, and treated by the psychosocial team at the Abramson Cancer Center

Pennsylvania State University \$300,000

- Recruited 564 individuals to participate in the *Walk by Faith* or *Everybody Walk Across PA* physical activity programs across 67 counties, with over 72,000 miles logged by participants in the programs
- Vaccinated 100 adolescents against HPV. Well child visits remain reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Navigated 29 adults to colorectal cancer screening and 164 individuals to breast cancer screening. The COVID-19 pandemic created system wide staffing shortages which have had a negative impact on cancer screening and other programs
- Provided breast cancer screening education to 612 individuals
- Provided chronic disease education through the Harrisburg Summit, community events and webinars to 9,000 individuals
- Provided clinical trial education to 83 individuals
- Provided cultural competency training to 25 providers
- Provided bi-lingual navigation services to 56 Hispanic individuals

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Services

Total state appropriation \$2,563,000

The information below reflects on the activities that were accomplished by the Pennsylvania Breast and Cancer Early Detection Program using the limited amount of state funding allocated to comprehensive cancer control and implementation of the state cancer plan.

- Served 8,590 women through the Program. Patient services were provided with state and federal funds
- Provided diagnostic services for breast cancer to 3,323, and 475 women received diagnostic services for cervical cancer through the Program
- Detected 95 breast cancers and 29 cervical cancers
- The number of provider sites are 245

- Through interventions with community partners and patient navigation efforts, an additional 463 women completed breast and cervical cancer screenings or diagnostic testing
- Due to state and federal funding amounts, the program has been able to provide breast and cervical cancer services to approximately 5.7% of the eligible population. That means that there are approximately 141,800 women in Pennsylvania who are eligible for PA-BCCEDP, but still do not receive services due to insufficient funding.
- The PA Breast Cancer Coalition held six “67 Women, 67 Counties: Pennsylvania Women Facing Breast Cancer” traveling photo exhibits, reaching approximately 407,500 Pennsylvanians; including individuals that attended opening receptions and individuals that viewed the exhibit during its stay at six sites

Pediatric Cancer Research Funds

Total state appropriation..... \$799,530

The information below describes the allocation of pediatric cancer research funding received from direct tax return donations and vehicle registration donations from two statutes: Act 2017-39 and Act 2018-73.

Pennsylvania Department of Revenue (Act 39 of 2017)\$51,433
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Act 73 of 2018)\$748,097

- The 2021 state funding year allocations were disseminated through the PA Health Research Office to six pediatric cancer research hospitals.
- The six hospitals that received funds were the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, Penn State Health Children’s Hospital, Janet Weis Children’s Hospital at Geisinger Medical Center, St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children Drexel University College of Medicine, and Lehigh Valley Health Network Reilly Children’s Hospital.

References

Cancer Statistics Health.pa.gov.
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<https://www.phaim1.health.pa.gov/EDD/WebForms/CancerCntySt.aspx>

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<https://www.phaim1.health.pa.gov/EDD/WebForms/DeathCntySt.aspx>

Cancer Prevention Overview. Cancer.gov.
<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/patient-prevention-overview-pdq>. Accessed October 6, 2021.

[USCS Data Visualizations - CDC](#)