

Protect the Centers for Disease Control Cancer Programs



The Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) state-based cancer control programs provide vital resources to every state for improving public health through evidence-based activities that promote cancer prevention and early detection, quality treatment, and survivorship care. These activities include support for:

- State comprehensive cancer control planning and implementation targeting each state's particular cancer burden and needs;
- Supporting evidence-based awareness initiatives targeting skin, prostate, ovarian, and blood cancers; and
- Maintaining a strong national system of state cancer registries to help track trends and measure progress; and

Applying Proven Early Detection and Prevention Practices

Each year, cancer costs the United States an estimated \$228 billion due to lost productivity and direct medical costs. The tragedy is that at least half of all cancer deaths can be prevented or detected early simply by using the knowledge and tools that are already available to us today. Scientific evidence demonstrates that screening has increased the five-year survival rate for those who have breast, colon, cervical and certain other cancers dramatically. Increasing screening and early detection can prevent cancer, save lives, improve the quality and productivity of those lives, and ultimately save money;

Funding Cuts Will Cause Long Term Damage

As we begin to see breakthroughs in cancer prevention and control, the federal budgets for cancer research are falling further and further behind. Our continued success in the fight against cancer is directly tied our sustained commitment to adequate funding. A few examples of the impact of this investment are highlighted below:

- The CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings to low income and uninsured women. Flat and declining funding resulted in fewer women served by the program in 2009 than were served in 2006, equating to a 9 percent drop in the number of women served;
- Strong scientific evidence has shown that regular screening for colorectal cancer (CRC) is a cost-effective way to reduce CRC incidence and mortality. However, screening rates for CRC are currently lower than for other cancer screenings. The CDC's CRC outreach and screening initiative is under-funded and unable to meet the growing need for public awareness of CRC, educate health care providers about CRC screening guidelines and assist state programs with CRC screening programs;
- The CDC supports critical state and local comprehensive cancer control programs in all 50 states. CDC programs fund a range of services including tobacco, prostate, and skin cancer control. These programs have been proven to be effective at reducing cancer incidence. An adequate flow of funding must be preserved in order to maintain the progress that has been made at the local level.