

## HEALTH DISPARITIES INCREASE THE CANCER BURDEN.

Underinsured families, families in poverty, and families in rural areas are least likely to receive timely cancer screening and treatment.

- + A disproportionate number of Texas African-Americans and Hispanics die from cancer each year. African Americans in Texas have cancer mortality rates about 1.4 times higher than those of non-Hispanic whites, and 1.8 times higher than mortality rates for Hispanics.
- + Over 3.1 million Texans live below the poverty line. High poverty levels are associated with late diagnosis and poorer treatment outcomes of cancer.
- + Texas leads the nation in the percentage of working people who have no health insurance. Over 3 million Texans live in 190 rural counties, and many are medically underserved.
- + Texas has one of the largest Asian populations nationwide. Accurate cancer data is available for this group, but more accurate population data is needed to fully identify the group's needs.



## THE COST OF CANCER IMPACTS ALL TEXAS COMMUNITIES.

*The cost of cancer in Texas in 1998 was estimated at \$13.9 billion in direct medical costs and lost productivity.*

**Data Sources:**  
• Texas Cancer Facts and Figures, American Cancer Society, Texas Division, 2004.  
• Strategic Plan FY 2005-FY2009, Texas Cancer Council.

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Learn more about conquering cancer in Texas. Visit the following web sites. Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition partners are listed at [www.texascancercoalition.org](http://www.texascancercoalition.org).

Texas Cancer Data Center  
[www.texascancerdatacenter.org](http://www.texascancerdatacenter.org)

Department of State Health Services  
[www.dshs.state.tx.us.chs/](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us.chs/)

Texas Cancer Council  
[www.tcc.state.tx.us](http://www.tcc.state.tx.us)

American Cancer Society  
[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

# 100

ONE HUNDRED DIFFERENT DISEASES.  
FIVE WAYS TO FIGHT BACK.

# 5

Prevention information and services

Early detection and treatment

Professional education and practice

Cancer data and planning

Survivorship

# cancer...

*It's more than 100 different diseases. All cancers exhibit abnormal and uncontrolled cell growth and the ability to spread to different areas of the body. Many cancers may also be prevented, treated and controlled.*

*Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Texas. Each year 33,000 lives are lost to cancer. In an average week, close to 1,700 Texans learn that they have cancer, and another 750 individuals lose their lives to the disease.*

*Tobacco causes the most cancer deaths – 1 of every 3 cancer deaths – in Texas among both men and women.*

*The number of lung and bronchus cancer deaths each year exceeds deaths from colorectal, breast and prostate cancer combined. About 500 Texans lose their lives to tobacco every week.*

*Colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of death in both men and women.*

*Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among all Texas men, and breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among all Texas women.*

## CANCER PREVENTION SAVES LIVES.

Many cancers can be prevented – saving lives, protecting health, preserving family economic stability and avoiding billions of dollars of unnecessary expenditures in health care and lost productivity. Health risk research suggests that:

- Most cancers caused by tobacco and heavy alcohol use could be prevented.
- Cancer deaths could be reduced by up to 33 percent through improved nutrition, increased physical activity and by reducing obesity.
- Nearly all cervical and skin cancers can be prevented and/or diagnosed at a very early stage when the disease is most curable.
- About 90 percent of all colorectal cancers and deaths may be preventable.



## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SAVES LIVES.

Across most of Texas, primary care physicians, nurses, and other health professionals are the first line of cancer prevention and detection and are the gateway to cancer care for their patients.

These professionals must be knowledgeable about the latest prevention, diagnostic screening and treatment strategies, and complications arising from treatment, so that all Texas patients can receive optimal care.

## ACCURATE CANCER DATA HELPS COMMUNITIES SAVE LIVES.

Complete, timely and accurate cancer surveillance is the key for policymakers, health care providers, researchers, and local communities to address the increasing cancer burden in Texas. Solid partnerships of the Texas Cancer Registry with health care facilities, pathology and other laboratories, physicians' offices, and health science centers are essential to support cancer control efforts in Texas. A true state and national model of comprehensive cancer control and research is not attainable without the Texas Cancer Registry achieving and maintaining national cancer surveillance data standards and receiving a core of sustained adequate funding.

## MORE TEXANS ARE LIVING WITH, THROUGH AND BEYOND CANCER.

Millions of Texans are living longer lives with a diagnosis of cancer. Survivors share concerns about follow-up care, recurrence, diminished quality of life, work place reintegration, financial concerns, health care coverage, and psychosocial support.

## THE TEXAS CANCER PLAN: FIVE POWERFUL WAYS TO FIGHT CANCER

The Texas Cancer Plan, a blueprint for cancer prevention and control, identifies five cancer-fighting strategies that help our state focus cancer control funds, programs and initiatives where they can be most successful. (To learn about the Texas Cancer Plan visit [www.tcc.state.tx.us](http://www.tcc.state.tx.us) or call the Texas Cancer Council at

## EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT SAVES LIVES.

Early cancer diagnosis and treatment significantly reduces cancer deaths and the financial burden of cancer.

Screening exams can detect at early stages breast, colorectal and prostate cancers – three of the most

common cancers. If all Texans participated in appropriate cancer screenings and received timely treatment, the survival rate for many cancers could rise dramatically.

