



# Comprehensive Cancer Control: FACT SHEET

## What CCC is

Comprehensive Cancer Control is a collaborative process through which a community pools resources to reduce the burden of cancer that results in:

- Risk reduction.
- Early detection.
- Better treatment.
- Enhanced survivorship.

## Why CCC developed

Not very long ago, cancer was a death sentence. This began to change with passage of the 1971 National Cancer Act, which established the government's commitment to cancer research. The resulting research, which focused on particular cancer sites (breast, lung, prostate, etc.), led to a greater understanding of how cancer works, tests for detecting cancer earlier, and better treatments.

While this "site-specific" approach is necessary for success, it is not sufficient to address the nation's cancer burden; not when many Americans with cancer:

- Are diagnosed with cancers that could have been prevented.
- Are diagnosed with late-stage disease.
- Do not have access to or receive recommended treatment.
- Do not experience optimal quality of life.

For these reasons, state and national organizations began a decade ago linking cancer prevention and control programs to fight cancer more effectively.

## How CCC works

CDC's National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NCCCP) provides initial funds to help states, tribes, and territories:

- Establish CCC coalitions.
- Assess the burden of cancer.
- Determine priorities.
- Develop and implement CCC plans.

As of Spring 2006:

- All 50 states, the District of Columbia, 6 territories, and 6 tribes/tribal organizations receive support from CDC for CCC programs (63 programs total).

- 44 states, tribes, and territories have completed cancer plans and are putting their plans into action.
- Coalitions of local leaders from inside and outside the cancer community are reaching across traditional divides to make CCC a reality in communities across the nation.

### What CCC accomplishes

Comprehensive Cancer Control helps communities across the nation:

- Reduce cancer risk, by encouraging people to
  - Avoid tobacco use.
  - Eat a healthy, balanced diet.
  - Maintain a healthy weight.
  - Exercise regularly.
  - Limit alcohol consumption.
  - Protect themselves from environmental risks (i.e., sun exposure).
- Detect cancers earlier by
  - Promoting recommended cancer screening guidelines and tests.
  - Educating people about possible cancer signs and symptoms.
- Improve treatment by
  - Increasing access to quality cancer care.
  - Increasing participation in clinical trials.
- Decrease health disparities by
  - Ensuring equal access to, and delivery of, quality cancer care.
  - Increasing health care providers' cultural competence.
- Enhance quality of life for cancer survivors by addressing physical, psychosocial, and practical issues.

### The benefits of CCC

***A united front is more powerful.*** Comprehensive Cancer Control offers the power of collaboration to what otherwise might be a lonely fight. The result is a powerful network of groups that speaks with one voice about reducing cancer risk, detecting cancers earlier, improving access to quality cancer treatment, and improving quality of life for cancer survivors.

***Working together is more efficient.*** By putting Comprehensive Cancer Control plans into action, coalitions prevent overlap and direct resources to where they matter most in every state, and in many tribes and U.S. territories.

***Collective action creates new allies.*** People from all corners of the cancer community are gaining new allies by participating in Comprehensive Cancer Control. This allows them to pool resources, share expertise, and gain new insights into better ways to get the job done.

***Coalitions can tackle cross-cutting issues.*** A united front against cancer can tackle major issues—like better access to quality care, survivorship, health disparities, and quality of life—that are too broad and cross-cutting for any one organization to confront alone.

### How to learn more

For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/cancer/ncccp](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/ncccp), <http://cancercontrolplanet.cancer.gov>, or [www.cancerplan.org](http://www.cancerplan.org).

