



In this issue:

Quick News & Links:1

New Study Provides Estimates on the Link Between Alcohol and Cancer Across All 50 States1

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Announces the Release of the 2020 Cancer Survivorship Needs Report.....2

April is Minority Health Month 2021.....2

Leading Health and Cancer Advocacy Groups Unite to Reduce Racial Disparities in Cancer Care.....3

MCC Prostate Cancer Decision Website and Materials Update 4

2021 MCC Meetings4

Health Equity Corner4

Quick News & Links:

[Register now for the Caring for the Cancer Caregiver Webinar.](#)

[Having an event? Send us the details to post on the MCC Calendar of Events page!](#)

[MCC Calendar of Events](#)

New Study Provides Estimates on the Link Between Alcohol and Cancer Across All 50 States

American Cancer Society, 2021

Drinking alcohol has been linked with both developing and dying from several types of cancer. That is why the American Cancer Society’s (ACS) Guideline for Diet and Physical Activity for Cancer Prevention states that it is best not to drink alcohol. A new study by ACS researchers supports this recommendation. The study, published in [Cancer Epidemiology](#), found that alcohol accounts for a “considerable proportion” of cancer diagnoses and deaths in all US states. From 2013 to 2016, drinking alcohol was tied to more than 75,000 new diagnoses of cancer and almost 19,000 deaths from cancer each year.

The study fills a research gap by providing up-to-date estimates about the link between drinking alcohol and cancer across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. New England and Western states (except Utah), in general, had the highest estimated proportion of new diagnoses and deaths attributed to drinking alcohol, while Midwestern and Southern states generally had the lowest estimates. “The value of having state-specific information is that it allows each state’s health care providers and public health staff to prioritize education for the community as well as health policies that have been shown to help reduce the number of people who drink alcohol and the number of drinks they have,” said Farhad Islami, MD, PhD, senior ACS author of the study.

Drinking alcohol had a stronger connection with certain types of cancer. The highest links were estimated for:

- Mouth (oral cavity) and throat (pharyngeal) cancer, with almost 50% of new diagnoses related to drinking alcohol in most states. From 2013 to 2016, that added up to about 91,000 people.
- Voice box (laryngeal) cancer, with about 30% of new diagnoses related to drinking alcohol. During the years studied, that added up to almost 15,000 people. Of those, men had about 8 times as many cases of laryngeal cancer as did women.
- Breast cancer in women, with about 12% of new diagnoses related to drinking alcohol. That added up to about 116,000 women. Breast cancer accounts for about 75% of all alcohol-related cancers diagnosed in women.

For more information visit [American Cancer Society News](#).



Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Announces the Release of the 2020 Cancer Survivorship Needs Report

The MDHHS Cancer Prevention and Control Section is excited to announce the release of their [2020 Cancer Survivorship Needs Report](#).

This report provides data for Michigan communities, providers, public health professionals, and cancer survivors on the needs of survivors and their caregivers. It also provides information on the cancer disparities in Michigan. The surveillance and focus group data discussed in this report can assist with understanding survivors' health status, comorbidities, health behaviors, and access to care. This can be used to inform program prioritization and implementation, along with evaluating the effectiveness of public health interventions.

April is Minority Health Month 2021

April is National Minority Health Month, and this year, the HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) is focusing on the disproportionate impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on racial and ethnic minorities including American Indian and Alaska Native communities and underscores the need for these vulnerable communities to get vaccinated as more vaccines become available. COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help communities get back to normal, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to bring this pandemic to an end.

This year's theme for National Minority Health Month is **#VaccineReady**. The focus will be to empower communities to:

- Get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines.
- Share accurate vaccine information.
- Participate in clinical trials.
- Get vaccinated when the time comes.
- Practice COVID-19 safety measures.

As more vaccines become available, there are steps communities can take to protect themselves until they can get vaccinated. Be sure to:

- Wear a mask to protect yourself and others and stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from others who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds. The more people you are in contact with, the more likely you are to be exposed to COVID-19.

You can keep up to date on National Minority Health Month news and activities by [signing up](#) for OMH email updates or by following us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).



Leading Health and Cancer Advocacy Groups Unite to Reduce Racial Disparities in Cancer Care

National Comprehensive Cancer Network

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®), American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) and the National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF) presented recommendations for overcoming inequality in oncology. The recommendations—developed by a group of 17 national experts, representing patients and advocates, caregivers, healthcare providers, researchers, and industry—address how medical systems often disproportionately fail minority patients, particularly those who are Black and/or Indigenous, and draws on extensive polling data from a recent poll fielded by Public Opinion Strategies on behalf of the organizations to make clear the case for urgent action.

Among the notable survey findings: 63% of African American and 67% of Latinx patients, survivors, and caregivers said they had a negative experience with their oncology care team, such as having assumptions made about them or their financial situation, or trouble getting questions answered; this is in contrast to 43% of white respondents who reported such experiences. As for oncologists, 2/3 of those surveyed believed that non-white patients experienced worse outcomes from cancer care but only 1/3 felt those patient populations were receiving worse care or poorer communication during care.

“The research shows disparities in outcomes that aren’t based on biology; they result from systemic inequality and bias in access and care delivery,” said Robert W. Carlson, MD, Chief Executive Officer, NCCN. “Racism exists in the United States and impacts everyone, including the medical community. We’re committed to working together to make these recommendations a reality.”

We can improve cancer outcomes for communities of color and rural areas by closing gaps in screening, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship, both in clinical practice and in policy,” said Gary A. Puckrein, PhD, NMQF President and CEO. “NMQF is pleased to collaborate with NCCN and ACS CAN to develop evidence-based recommendations using real-world data that allow us to design a system that delivers high-quality cancer care to all of America’s diverse populations.”

To address the inequalities in access to cancer care, the three organizations convened the Elevating Cancer Equity Working Group. Workgroup recommendations include a new Equity Report Card to help providers, payers, and accreditation entities advance equitable care delivery. The report card includes 17 measurable practice changes, such as having health systems provide and require annual implicit bias training for all employees, offer culturally and linguistically representative patient navigators or community health workers through internal hiring or contracting with community-based organizations, and offer flexible hours for screening and treatment appointments. The full list of practice recommendations are broken down into the following categories:

- Community Engagement
- Accessibility of Care and Social Determinants of Health
- Addressing Bias in Care Delivery
- Quality and Comprehensiveness of Care

To learn more about this work visit the full [Cancer Advocacy Group article](#).



MCC Prostate Cancer Decision Website and Materials Update

When the ProstateCancerDecision.org website was established, it was unique and exceptional for the information it shared that filled a health education gap. In light of this, it is important to acknowledge and celebrate the role the website played during this time. However, with the ongoing need to maintain the approximately 50 documents on the website, the challenge to have timely information available has become more difficult to meet. The purpose of this message is to share that a plan has been established, with the support of Michigan Cancer Consortium (MCC) Co-Chairs, to retire the Prostate Cancer Decision website and its materials.

The following rationale informed the decision to retire the website:

- The website has dated information.
- Taken together, there are 50 documents in need of updating.
- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) that provides staff support to the MCC and has coordinated previous revisions to materials, does not have the resources to maintain and update the materials on the website.
- Other scientific and credible websites now have information that once was the niche of the website.

Moving forward, in lieu of the ProstateCancerDecision.org website, links to scientifically based and credible prostate cancer information will be included on the MDHHS website (www.michigan.gov/cancer). The website will be phased out by April 30, 2021. MDHHS is working to maintain a subset of up to five of the post-treatment guides. More information will be shared when available.

Finally, we thank the leaders and members of the MCC's Prostate Cancer Action Committee for their leadership and expertise over the years. Should you have questions, please contact Steve Springer in the Cancer Section at MDHHS at SpringerS@michigan.gov.

2021 MCC Meetings

2021 Board Meetings:
Wednesday, June 23
Wednesday, September 22

2021 Annual Meetings:
Wednesday, October 27

For more information contact Maria George at GeorgeM3@michigan.gov.

Health Equity Corner

Advancing Racial Equity Webinar Series

The Advancing Racial Equity webinar series takes an in-depth look at racism as a driving force of the social determinants of health and equity in the United States. The series explores efforts to address systems, policies and practices designed to limit and shape opportunities for people of color. The presenters highlight collective and individual actions we can take to advance racial equity and justice. For information on the webinar series and to access the discussion guide please visit the [APHA Advancing Racial Equity Webinar page](#).