

Status:

- Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Arkansas, and, if current trends continue, cancer may become the leading cause of death within the next decade.
- It is estimated that in 2008, almost 15,000 new cancers were diagnosed in Arkansas, including about 1,800 breast cancers; 1,700 colorectal cancers; 2,000 prostate cancers and 130 cervical cancers.
- In 2008, an estimated 6,350 people died of cancer in Arkansas, including 580 from colorectal cancer, 410 from breast cancer, 360 from prostate cancer and 140 from ovarian cancer.

Program:

The Arkansas Cancer Coalition is Arkansas's statewide comprehensive cancer control partnership comprised of over 400 individuals representing 150 organizations. The Coalition unites the state's doctors, hospitals, governmental agencies, public health services, community health groups and survivors around a common goal: to reduce the number of cancer-related deaths in Arkansas.

The Coalition's recently updated Arkansas Cancer Plan:

- Is based on an enhanced understanding of cancer, gained from years of experience working with stakeholder organizations in the state.
- Promotes the use of evidence-based strategies to promote cancer prevention and control.
- Addresses decreasing tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke; promoting cancer prevention and healthy lifestyles through nutrition and physical activity; promoting and encouraging protective behaviors from the sun and UV exposure; and screening, detecting and treating breast, cervical, ovarian, colorectal and prostate cancers based on accepted recommendations and guidelines.

Impact:

- Reduce the burden of cancer among all Arkansans.
- Coordinate cancer prevention and reduction efforts through organization and community partners.

How it Works:

- Through the Arkansas Cancer Plan, the Coalition addresses prevention, screening and detection, treatment, disparities, clinical trials, workforce development, survivorship, professional education, surveillance and evaluation.
- The Arkansas Cancer Coalition's Board of Directors prioritizes short- and long-term initiatives to address the goals, strategies and objectives recommended in the plan. Current Board membership includes representatives from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, the American College of Surgeons, Community Health Centers, the American Cancer Society, the Clinton School of Public Service, the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, the Arkansas Prostate Cancer Foundation, Cancer Survivors and the Arkansas Department of Health.

Administration/Oversight: Funds will be disbursed through the Arkansas Department of Health. Funding will be utilized to implement components of the Arkansas Cancer Plan as prioritized by the Arkansas Cancer Coalition. The Arkansas Department of Health reviews and approves the Cancer Coalition's priorities that are extracted from the Arkansas Cancer Plan and the proposed use of the funds.