

Collaborative to Improve Native Cancer Outcomes



Traditionally, studies of vulnerable populations have focused on specific disease disparities targeted at the individual level. The Collaborative to Improve Native Cancer Outcomes seeks to implement a different approach to cancer outcomes, in that it considers diverse cancer disparities as systemic disorders of society. The key factors targeted in this method range from the micro level to the macro level, from genetic vulnerabilities to health policies.

The goals for this program consist of:

- generating findings that can be translated into practical policy
- changing organizational structures, and their resulting treatments
- optimizing patient-centered health outcomes
- reducing or eliminating cancer among American Indian and Alaska Native people

Led by 25 researchers, including 9 Native investigators, in 6 community based sites and 11 academic institutions, this program consists of 5 interwoven research projects on cancer, cancer risk factors, and social and environmental determinants of cancer.

The projects examine:

- genetic and non-genetic factors linked to smoking and nicotine metabolism
- cervical cancer prevention strategies among women and adolescents
- digital stories to improve colorectal cancer screening
- knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors pertinent to smoking and the impact on household smoking of providing adult smokers with biological evidence of the impact of secondary smoke on their children
- surgical disparities in lung, prostate, breast, and colorectal cancer

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