



# Iowa Cancer Consortium

[www.canceriowa.org](http://www.canceriowa.org)

## 2023-2027 Iowa Cancer Plan | **Executive Summary**

### About the Iowa Cancer Consortium

The Iowa Cancer Consortium is a statewide coalition of nearly 600 members and 68 organizations. The Consortium brings Iowans together to strengthen partnerships, find funding, and build knowledge and skills to reduce the burden of cancer in Iowa.

### Problem Statement

Cancer is a major public health problem worldwide and is the second leading cause of death in Iowa.<sup>1</sup>

In 2020, the diagnosis and treatment of cancer was adversely affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. According to the American Cancer Society, the reduced access to care because of the many health care setting closures and fear of COVID-19 exposure resulted in delays for both cancer diagnosis and treatment. As more data becomes available, cancer data scientists predict a short-term drop in cancer incidence followed by an uptick in advanced-stage disease and cancer mortality.<sup>2</sup>

The Iowa Cancer Registry estimates nearly 20,000 Iowans received a cancer diagnosis in 2022, with approximately 6,300 Iowans losing their lives to cancer that same year<sup>3</sup>.

### A healthier Iowa by reducing the burden of cancer for everyone

Cancer is a complex and costly disease, and addressing it is difficult to do alone.

The Iowa Cancer Plan brings Iowans together around evidence-based, actionable solutions to reduce the burden of cancer. Created by cancer experts and Iowans across the state, the Iowa Cancer Plan includes five chapters:

1. **Health Equity:** identify and eliminate cancer health disparities.
2. **Prevention and Risk Reduction:** whenever possible, prevent cancer from occurring.
3. **Early Detection and Screening:** promote the benefits of screening tests to ensure early diagnosis.
4. **Diagnosis and Cancer-Directed Therapy:** reduce barriers to care, promote evidence-based practices and encourage participation in clinical trials and other forms of research.
5. **Survivorship and End-of-Life Care:** ensure resources to optimize quality of life for cancer survivors and their families.

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<sup>1</sup> Siegel, R. L., Miller, K. D., & Fuchs, H. E. (2022, January/February). Cancer statistics, 2022. *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*, 72(1), 7-33. <https://acsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.3322/caac.21708>

<sup>2</sup> Siegel, R. L., Miller, K. D., & Fuchs, H. E. (2022, January/February). Cancer statistics, 2022. *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*, 72(1), 7-33. <https://acsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.3322/caac.21708>

<sup>3</sup> Iowa Cancer Registry. *2022 Cancer in Iowa*. (2022, March). Retrieved September 13, 2022, from <https://shri.public-health.uiowa.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/cancer-in-iowa-2022.pdf>



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## Who Should Use the Plan

The Iowa Cancer Plan is not meant for the Iowa Cancer Consortium to accomplish alone. Rather, it serves as a guide to provide direction and support for those who want to work collectively to accomplish the goals and strategies outlined in the plan.

The Iowa Cancer Plan is intended for use by:

- Health system leaders
- Public health professionals
- Policymakers
- Researchers
- Every person in Iowa working to reduce the burden of cancer

## Value of working together

By sharing ownership of the goals and priorities outlined within the Iowa Cancer Plan, communities are able to share information freely, hold one another accountable, and engage in creative problem solving – all in an effort to reduce the burden of cancer in their community. Working together on cancer control issues saves Iowans time, gets them the resources they need to make change, and builds a movement around saving lives.

## Help us reduce the burden of cancer for all people in Iowa

Learn more about the plan and join the Iowa Cancer Consortium at [canceriowa.org/membership](http://canceriowa.org/membership).