

Dear Iowans,

For 22 years, the Iowa Cancer Consortium, together with the Iowa Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, has led efforts to prevent and control cancer in Iowa. The second leading cause of death among Iowans, cancer is a significant public health concern throughout the state. Since the previous Iowa Cancer Plan was released, a global pandemic has underscored the critical nature of public health and healthcare systems as well as highlighting the specific areas of health concern for Iowan's population, including our rate of cancer diagnoses.

Newly revised for 2023-2027, the Iowa Cancer Plan focuses on practical steps that anyone in Iowa can take to reduce the burden of cancer for individuals and communities. Avoiding tobacco use, reducing alcohol consumption, getting recommended vaccines, ensuring your home's radon level is not elevated, practicing sun safety, being physically active, and eating healthy foods like fruits and vegetables can reduce your risk for developing cancer. Having regular, recommended cancer screenings can identify precancerous changes and cancers at their earliest stages when prevention and treatment can be simpler and more effective.

We have also identified collaborative efforts to increase cancer health equity, which are highlighted throughout this plan. These strategies underscore our commitment to actively identifying and removing barriers as well as addressing social determinants of health, the economic and social conditions that influence individual and group differences in health.

The Iowa Cancer Plan assists public policymakers, community-based organizations, healthcare providers, and all Iowans in identifying evidence-based interventions and action steps to help prevent cancer, increase cancer screening, support cancer survivors, and reduce cancer disparities. Successful cancer prevention efforts require multidisciplinary partnerships and a continued investment in cancer control and prevention. Together, we will ensure a future where cancer is no longer a burden for Iowans.

Sincerely,



Kelly Garcia

Director
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services