





Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence Community Outreach and Engagement









RUTGERS

Cancer Institute
of New Jersey
RUTGERS HEALTH



RWJBarnabasHEALTH



Table of Contents

- 1 Message from Anita Kinney, PhD, RN, FAAN, FABMR
- 2 | About the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence
- 4 | Our Outreach Team
- 8 Mission, Vision, and Aims for Community Outreach and Engagement
- 10 | Strategic Aim 1: New Jersey Cancer Burden—Monitoring and Assessment
- 16 | Strategic Aim 2: Community Outreach, Partnerships, and Bi-Directional Engagement
- 20 Strategic Aim 3: Fostering Cancer Research
- 26 | Our Policy Impact
- 28 | Community-Engaged and Equity-Focused Pilot Awards, Disparities-Focused Grants, and Research Initiatives
- 31 | Initiatives for 2021
- **33** Community Partners

Photographs without face coverings were taken pre-COVID-19



Support the outreach and engagement activities of the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence with a tax-deductible contribution. give.rutgers.edu/cancerhealthequity

Philanthropy accelerates and expands the impact of the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence by funding research, programs, and more. If you would like to learn more about making a gift, please contact cinjdevelopment@ruf.rutgers.edu.



Dear Residents of New Jersey and Colleagues,

It is with great enthusiasm that I share with you our first impact report on the community outreach and engagement efforts of the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence, a formal partnership between the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Rutgers School of Public Health.

With a catchment area encompassing the state of New Jersey, the mission of the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence is to advance the achievement of equitable access, improved health care quality, and better outcomes across the cancer continuum prevention, early detection, treatment, survivorship, and end-of-life care—through research, education and training, community engagement and outreach, and public policy advocacy. This mission reflects our responsibility for making an enduring impact, our commitment to partnership and community engagement, and our charge to respond to our catchment area's cancer burden.

We established the following goals that enable us to focus on our mission:

- Assess and monitor the catchment area cancer burden and cancer-relevant needs to guide outreach, policy, and scientific inquiry
- Conduct and support a wide range of cancer-related community outreach and engagement activities, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations
- Foster basic, clinical, and population-related cancer research that is relevant to the catchment area. with a focus on reducing cancer health disparities.

Through strong relationships with our community partners and collaborators, we touched the lives of thousands of New Jersey residents, and achieved great success with providers and health care

organizations, as you will read about in the following pages. You will also learn about Rutgers' first Citizen Scientist program, some of our cancer health equity research, and exciting plans for next year—including Research Cafés that foster bidirectional community engagement with researchers, and the development of BEAT Cancer, a platform that will bring health care, community, and researchers together by Bridging divides, Educating and empowering, Artistic expression, and Touching lives. We extend special thanks to our Community Cancer Action Board members, whose insights, commitment, and energetic leadership truly make a difference in the lives of the people we serve.

It is impossible to view the events of 2020 without recognizing the devastation from the COVID-19 pandemic. This catastrophic global event affected all aspects of our lives, and left many of us grieving the loss of family and friends, especially within our communities of color, who have experienced an undue burden of loss. I offer deepest gratitude to our community partners, staff, and faculty: It is a privilege to work with you as we strive to bring health and equity and decrease the cancer burden in New Jersey and beyond.

Sincerely.

Anita Kinney, PhD, RN, FAAN, FABMR Associate Director for Population Science and Community Outreach Director, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey; Inaugural Director, Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence; Professor, Department

of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Rutgers School of

Public Health; and Director, ScreenNJ



CATCHMENT AREA: NEW JERSEY

Showing the regions of Northern, Central & Southern New Jersev



About the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence

For nearly three decades, the Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Rutgers School of Public Health have been respective leaders in health education, research, and cancer care, with a primary emphasis on the residents of New Jersey. These efforts have contributed quantitatively and qualitatively to reducing the state's overall cancer burden.

However, notable disparate outcomes remain in our communities, often linked to race, ethnicity, geography, socioeconomic status, and other factors. So, in 2019, the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence (originally called the Center for Cancer Health Equity) was established as a formal partnership between the Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Rutgers School of Public Health, to lead the way in addressing and remedying these disparities in New Jersey. The Center serves as a statewide proponent and catalyst for cancer health equity in our state, with five pillar goals:

Center Structure—Establishing the Center's identity, organizational structure, governance, and a business plan, to meet the requirements and expectations of a recognized Center of Excellence

Research—Fostering transdisciplinary and community-engaged research addressing cancer health equity in populations suffering disproportionate cancer burdens, particularly underserved and minority populations; and conducting research that is responsive to community needs

Education and Training—Strengthening the pathway of scholars—spanning post-secondary students to faculty and community-based public health practitioners—trained in promoting cancer health equity. The Center will serve as a rich, engaging environment for the education and training of the next generation of biomedical/public health professionals and researchers who will be better equipped to promote cancer health equity for decades to come

Community Outreach and Engagement—

Promoting community participation and bi-directional engagement in strategic planning; and in the design, implementation and evaluation of Center-driven education, research, and dissemination of evidence-based guidelines and policies for cancer prevention and control

Public Policy Advocacy—Influencing local, state, and national policy rooted in evidence-based guidelines and strategies to achieve cancer health equity

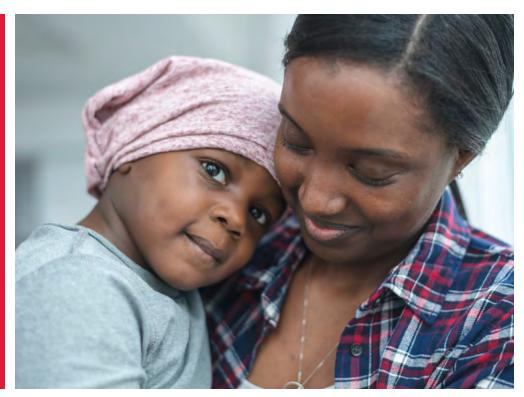
In this impact report, we focus on the Center's Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) work in 2020.



Mission

Advance the achievement of equitable access, improved health care quality, and better outcomes across the cancer continuum—prevention, early detection, treatment, survivorship, and end-of-life care—through:

- Research
- Education and training
- Community outreach and engagement
- Public policy advocacy





Vision

Be the leading center in the nation for achieving cancer health equity, improving the quality of cancer care, and reducing the cancer burden.

To learn more, visit cinj.org/CancerHealthEquity

Our Outreach Team

The Rutgers Cancer Institute's Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) team is made up of Rutgers Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence faculty, staff, and members of our Community Cancer Action Board. To learn more about our team members, visit cinj.org/outreach/community-outreach-and-engagement

Community Cancer Action Board (CCAB)

This leadership and advisory group consists of 35 key stakeholders and patient advocates representing diverse populations throughout the state.

Members

- Serve as the voice of the community
- Share professional/personal experience as representatives of the community
- Advise on scientific, ethical, and operational issues of cancer research
- Address local concerns to inform scientific agenda and outreach efforts
- Identify and recommend opportunities for grants and philanthropic funding
- Create a winning strategy for the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
- Foster partnerships between the cancer care and research communities

DOROTHY REED

Co-Chair, Community Cancer Action Board







The Cancer Community Action Board Members Represent Our Communities

- Geography
- **■** Occupation
- Race
- Gender
- **Ethnicity/Religion/Culture**
- **■** Sexual Identity
- **Low Socioeconomic Status**
- **■** Disability
- Age
- **Cancer Survivorship**

Cancer Community Action Board Members

Alka Agrawal, Chief Operating Officer, EBC Radio

Dr. Rhina Acevedo, Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine & Community Health,

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Cynthia Chmielewski, Community Member

Sheri Cognetti, North Jersey Health Collaborative

Natasha Coleman, MPH, Sr. Director, Cancer Control Strategic Partnerships, American Cancer Society

Iris Cooney, Community Health Educator

Alexandra DelCollo, Sr. Program Coordinator, Rutgers University

MarTisha Kanard-Dwyer, BS, MA, Community Advocate

Dr. Mahnaz Fatahzadeh, Director, Division of Oral Diagnosis, Rutgers School of Dental Medicine

Harry Garcia, E-Board Member, Jazz4Prostate Cancer Awareness

Katherine Guo, PhD, Research Scientist, Nokia Bell Labs

Luanne Hughes, MS, RDN, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Department of Family & Community Health Sciences

Guillermina Inoa Mencia, Community Member

JC Irons, Jazz4Prostate Cancer Awareness

Danette Manzi, President, CIS Management, Inc.

Tim Marshall, PhD, MS, ACSM-CET, Community Member, Physical Fitness / Cancer Programming

Rose Maruca, RN, BSN, MBA, Sr. Market Development Manager, Acadia Pharmaceuticals

Frances Munet-Vilar, Professor Emerita, Rutgers University

Ray Petit, Community Member, Cancer Survivor

Christopher Proano, Community Member, Young Adult Pediatric Survivor

Dorothy Reed, Co-Founder/President, Sister2Sister

Norma Roberts, MD, FACOG, Medical Director, Director of Women's Health,

Newark Department of Health & Community Wellness

Jeanne Marie Ryan, Community Member, New Jersey Library Association

Katherine Schaible, Program Director, Crossroads 4 Hope

Dorinda Sparacio, Community Member, Cancer Survivor/Community Advocate

Ralph Stowe, Founder/CEO/Advocate/Pianist, Jazz4Prostate Cancer Awareness

Elizabeth Talmont, DNP, ANP-BC, VP of Research Development, Planned Parenthood, Inc.. of

Northern, Central & Southern New Jersey

Carolyn Thompson, MA, Executive Director, New Jersey Department of Health

Maria Vivar, Promotora, Lazos America Unida

Teresa Vivar, Executive Director, Lazos America Unida

Su Wang, MD, Medical Director, Center for Asian Health, Viral Hepatitis Program, Saint Barnabas Medical Center

Ronnie Weyl, Community Member, Cancer Survivor, (Retired) Executive Director,

Raritan Valley Community College Foundation

Highlights of CCAB Working Groups

Two working groups within the Community Cancer Action Board (CCAB) focus on member education as well as Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) program development. Their work is essential to ensuring we are focusing on cancer care, research, and education for all New Jersey residents. All of us at Rutgers Cancer Institute are thankful for their leadership, hard work, and dedication.

The Cancer Research Working Group Community Co-Chair: Harry Garcia COE Co-Chairs: Michelle Jansen and Evelyn Fuertes

The engagement of the community with researchers, and vice-versa, fosters research that is responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.

The first Rutgers Cancer Institute COE Citizen Scientist program was held in the spring of 2020. This webbased, seven-week program teaches non-scientists about research fundamentals, ethics, and regulations. Led and moderated by COE team member Michelle Jansen, the Citizen Scientist program is designed to prepare community members to bring their unique perspectives on research to scientists.

During 2020, members of the CCAB also provided input to 16 Rutgers Cancer Institute researchers to assist them in aligning their work with the needs of the communities. Researchers and CCAB members discussed new research ideas at our bi-monthly CCAB meetings, at pilot proposal review meetings, during Rutgers Cancer Institute Scientific Review Meetings, and as participants on Research Advisory Boards. Additionally, CCAB members participate in quarterly Catchment Area and Research Program Integration Committee meetings. CCAB members have requested and led focus groups in our communities and plan more for 2021. They also successfully initiated the Science Café, an informal dialogue available to researchers and community members.

Photos, top row, left to right: Harry Garcia, Evelyn Fuertes Second row, left to right: Michelle Jansen, Daniel Pearson











Media and Arts Working Group

Community Co-Chair: Harry Garcia COE Co-Chair: Daniel Pearson

This group is committed to engaging New Jersey communities through creative and artistic methods. In 2020, the group's infrastructure and strategic plan was developed. It will produce appealing educational videos, compelling interviews, and outreach materials that will dispel common health care myths and address health and cancer-related disparities.

"I've learned to be inspirational and to be persuasive but also, and of the utmost importance, is to be authentic. To be myself in a world that is constantly trying to make me something else is my greatest accomplishment." Harry Garcia, Community Co-Chair, Media and Arts Working Group

"Connecting clinical, academic research and empowering and inspiring members of communities to get involved to address health inequality has momentum. The compassion that the CCAB team has for listening and believing that the answers are in the community gives hope that the cancer burden will be reduced." Dorothy Reed, Chair, Community Cancer Action Board

BEAT—Cancer and the Arts

Chief among the group's projects is a virtual safe space where community members can access important and accurate health information while indulging in vibrant art and music. This hub; to be known as BEAT Cancer: Bridging divides, Educating and empowering, Arts expression, and Touching lives; will house media resources created by the group and encourage community discourse and feedback.

"I believe that we can inbound outlying communities by bringing that entire neighborhood online on our ecosystem." **Harry Garcia**

"The community can retain its identity, customs, and cultures and we can promote a safe way to learn and engage with our contribution to diminish health inequities, disparities, and implicit bias." Harry Garcia

The following Clinical Trials Working Group members completed the Rutgers Cancer Institute Citizen Scientist program:

Citizen Scientist Graduates, 2020

Sheri Cognetti

North Jersey Health Collaborative

Harry Garcia

Jazz4Prostate Cancer Awareness

JC Irons

Jazz4Prostate Cancer Awareness

Karen McPherson

Jazz4Prostate Cancer Awareness

Paul Messer

Jazz4Prostate Cancer Awareness

Christopher Proano

Community Member, Pediatric Cancer

Dee Sparacio

Cancer Survivor/Community Advocate

Ralph Stowe

Jazz4Prostate Cancer Awareness

Elizabeth Talmont

Planned Parenthood, Inc.



Our Mission, Vision, and Aims for Community Outreach and Engagement

Mission

As New Jersey's only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey's team of internationally recognized physicians and researchers is driven by a singular focus and mission: To help people fight cancer. This mission is being accomplished in partnership with RWJBarnabas Health.

In one of the nation's most ethnically and racially diverse states, the Rutgers Cancer Institute's Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) mission— delivered through the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence and its extensive network of partners— is to develop pathways between New Jersey communities and cancer prevention resources, cancer care agencies, and cancer researchers to reduce inequity and decrease the cancer burden. We strive to empower our communities to sustain these pathways by providing capacity building, innovative education, and training and by addressing health equity issues and engaging in the cancer research process.

Vision

Our vision is to achieve cancer health equity, eliminate cancer disparities, improve the quality of cancer care, and in doing so reduce the cancer burden for New Jersey's diverse residents.

Aims for Community Outreach and Engagement







EQUITY

AIM 1

Assess and monitor the catchment area cancer burden and cancer-relevant needs to guide outreach and scientific inquiry

AIM 2

Conduct and support a wide range of cancerrelated community outreach and engagement activities with a particular focus on vulnerable populations

AIM 3

Foster basic, clinical, and population cancer research that is responsive to the catchment area, with a focus on reducing cancer health disparities







EQUALITY

Everyone benefits from the same support and receives equal treatment.



EQUITY

Everyone receives the necessary support for their individual needs and circumstances. This is the concept of "affirmative action."



JUSTICE

No support is needed because the cause of the inequity is addressed and the systemic barrier has been removed.



Assess and monitor New Jersey's cancer burden and cancer-relevant needs to guide outreach and scientific inquiry

Community Discovery

Rutgers Cancer Institute has defined all of New Jersey as the area it serves. We call this our catchment area.

Understanding our catchment area is necessary to achieving our goals of providing equitable cancer care and reducing the cancer burden statewide. We start by describing the unique characteristics of New Jersey residents, then identify the location, incidence, and death rates from cancer—as well as the prevalence of behavioral factors that increase the risk of cancer, such as tobacco and alcohol use, obesity, and exercise rates. We evaluate social determinants of health that also influence risk in our communities, such as poverty, joblessness, limited access to health care services, inadequate health care insurance, and areas with environmental hazards.

To further broaden our understanding, the Rutgers Cancer Institute Community Outreach and Engagement team worked with Rutgers Eagleton Institute of Politics' Center for Public Interest Polling to survey 1,500 New Jersey residents about screening behaviors and COVID-19's impact on screening; and about attitudes toward vaccinations, clinical trials participation, genetic testing, biorepository research, and palliative care. Completed in November 2020 and now being analyzed, this survey will assist Rutgers Cancer Institute in setting priorities for outreach and research.



Factors Examined by Rutgers Cancer Institute Catchment Area Survey

Financial Burden of Cancer

Community Context

Neighborhoods & Environment

Health Care

Education

Attitudes/Beliefs/Knowledge

COVID-19

Healthy Living Behaviors

Genetic Risks

Attitudes Toward Clinical Trials and Biospecimen Research



Population	New Jersey	U.S.
■ Population	8.9 million	328 million
■ Population Density	1,195.5/mile	94/mile
■ Below Poverty Level	9.2%	10.5%
■ Urban	94.7%	80.7%
■ Rural	1.2%	19.3%
■ Age 65+	16.6%	16.5%
■ High School and up	89.8%	89.0%
■ Foreign-Born	22.2%	13.7%

Race	New Jersey	U.S.
■ White Alone	72%	72%
■ Black	15	13
■ Hispanic	21	18
■ Asian	10	6

Facts About New Jersey

To properly assess, prioritize, and address the specific needs of New Jersey communities, there are many important facts about our state to consider when it comes to cancer-related outreach, community engagement, and scientific inquiry:

- Most densely populated state in the U.S.
- 4th most ethnically diverse
- 5th in cancer incidence and high mortality
- 50,000 cancer cases/16,100 cancer-related deaths annually
- Racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in cancer incidence, mortality, and access to care
- High percentage of minority and foreign-born residents and language-isolated households
- High-risk areas for poverty, educational/job opportunities, access to care, obesity, smoking, and alcohol use



Sources for three charts above: United States Census Bureau, 2019, census.gov



Assess and monitor the catchment cancer burden and cancer-relevant needs to guide outreach and scientific inquiry

Catchment Area Cancer Control Priorities and Goals

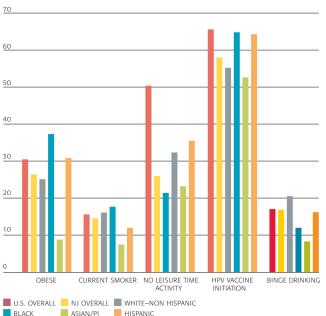
Our cancer control community outreach priorities and goals are also guided by the Healthy New Jersey initiative (which is modeled after the federal Healthy People initiative). Every decade, Healthy New Jersey develops a new set of evidence-based, 10-year objectives with the goal of improving the health of all New Jerseyans by implementing action plans to achieve measurable results by the end of the 10-year period. Our efforts support those goals and objectives.

As noted by Healthy New Jersey 2020, "Many cancers are preventable by reducing risk factors or getting appropriate vaccinations. Screening is effective in identifying some types of cancers in early, often highly treatable stages. Although the number of cancer deaths has experienced a significant decline over the years, cancer remains the second leading cause of death in New Jersey and the United States."

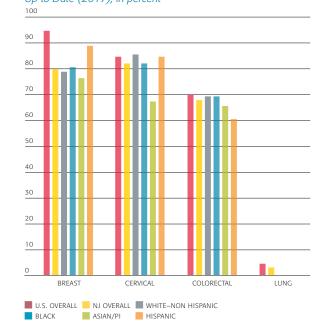
Healthy New Jersey 2030 identified five risk behaviors and four cancer screening areas as the highest-priority goals and objectives to drive action toward improving health and well-being:

Behaviors that Increase Cancer Risk

Risk Behaviors, All Genders (2012—2017), in percent



NJ Screening Rates are Lower than U.S. Rates Up to Date (2017), in percent



Healthy New Jersey 2030 Goals and Objectives

BEHAVIOR As of 2	2013–2017	Target level
Obese	26.8%	23.8%
Current Smoker	14.9	13.6
No Leisure Time Activity	y 26.5	32.6
HPV Vaccine Initiation	58.5	80.0
Binge Drinking	17.3	24.0
SCREENING RATES	As of 2017	Target level
SCREENING RATES Breast Cancer	As of 2017 79.3%	Target level 87.5%
Breast Cancer	79.3%	87.5%
Breast Cancer Cervical Cancer	79.3% 81.7	87.5% 93.6

^{*} Target objectives to be included in update of NJ Cancer Control Plan

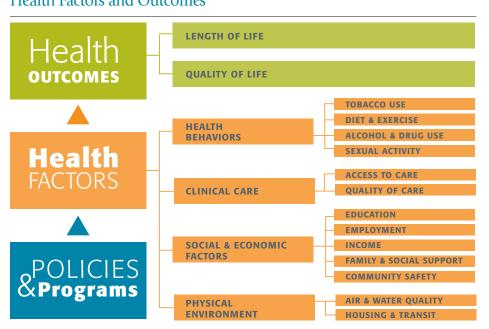
Communities Most Affected by Cancer Risk Factors

New Jersey is economically diverse as well. Areas with higher levels of poverty (9.2% of New Jerseyans are below the state's poverty threshold, defined as an annual income under \$70,000 for a family of three people) and low levels of educational achievement have increased risk of developing and dying of cancer.

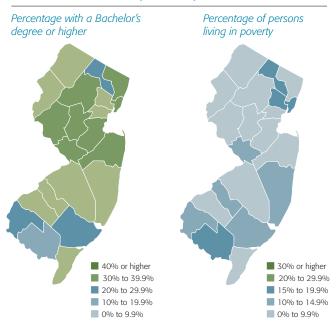
Additionally, about a third of the risk of cancer is due to health behaviors. When risky behavioral and social factors are both present, health goes down in general (blue map), poor health outcomes increase (green map), and so do cancer incidence and death from cancer.

Our Community Outreach and Engagement work prioritizes identifying counties at highest risk due to health behaviors and social factors, and sharing this information with both cancer researchers and the affected communities. And it focuses our community and research efforts, through collaborations with our community partners, to decrease risks in our most vulnerable geographic areas and to focus on areas of greatest need.

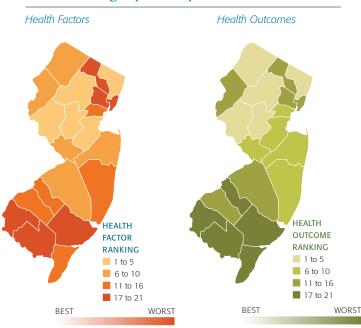
Health Factors and Outcomes



Economic Factors by County



Health Factors and Outcomes 2020 Rankings by County





Assess and monitor the catchment cancer burden and cancer-relevant needs to guide outreach and scientific inquiry

Locations that Carry the Cancer Burden in NJ

On average, New Jersey has a higher cancer incidence than the United States rate, and a slightly lower mortality rate. A closer look at the maps shown here reveals the range across counties, with significantly higher incidence and mortality rates in southern and northwestern counties and in the most urban areas of the state.

These maps show a pattern similar to the areas of the most worrisome socially determined risk factors like poverty and access to health care and highest rates of biobehavioral risk factors like smoking. Our Community Outreach and Engagement team crossreferences this information when determining the priority areas around the state.

- * A cancer incidence rate is the number of new cancers of a specific site/type occurring in a specified population during a year, usually expressed as the number of cancers per 100,000 population at risk. That is: Incidence rate = (New cancers / Population) \times 100,000
- ** A cancer mortality rate is the number of deaths, with cancer as the underlying cause of death, occurring in a specified population during a year. Cancer mortality is usually expressed as the number of deaths due to cancer per 100,000 population. That is: Mortality Rate = (Cancer Deaths / Population) × 100,000

Source: SEER Program and CDC NPCR-CSS, U.S. Cancer Statistics: https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/ incidencerates/index.php

New Jersey has the 5th highest incidence rate* among the 50 States

Invasive Incidence Rate-2017

NJ: 480.6 | US: 434.8

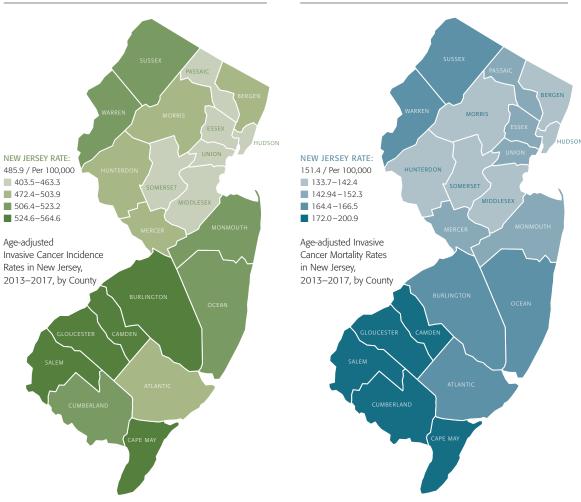
53,340 estimated cases in 2020

New Jersey has the 34th highest mortality rate** among the 50 states

Mortality Rate—2017

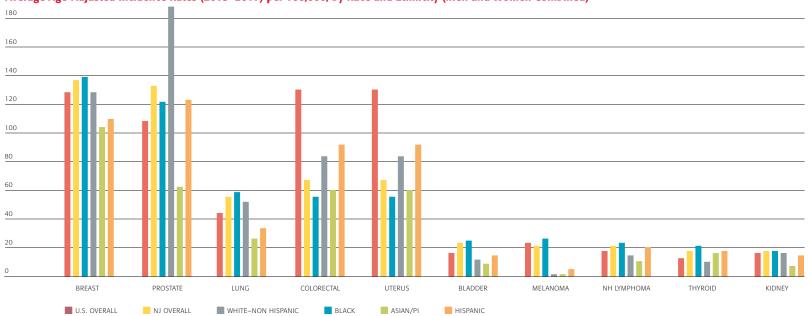
NJ: 145.7 | US: 152.6

15,710 estimated deaths in 2020



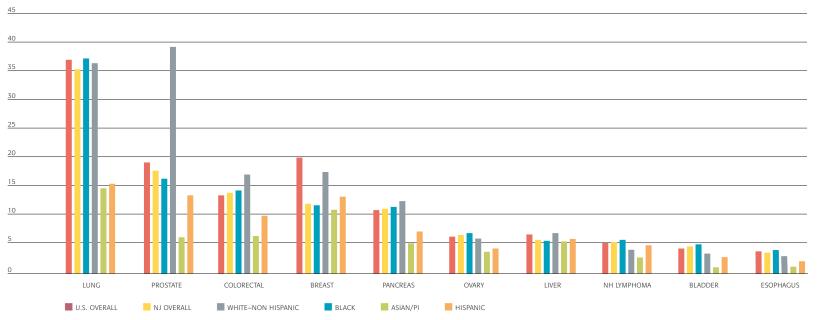
Cancers That Contribute Most to the Burden: Incidence Rates

Average Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates (2013–2017) per 100,000, by Race and Ethnicity (Men and Women Combined)



Cancers That Contribute Most to the Burden: Mortality Rates

Average Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates (2013–2017) per 100,000, by Race and Ethnicity (Men and Women Combined)





Conduct and support a wide range of cancer-related community outreach and engagement activities with a particular focus on vulnerable populations

Community Partnerships and Engagement

In collaboration with more than 200 partners across New Jersey—including other Rutgers academic units, health care provider agencies, public health agencies, and community organizations—our Community Outreach and Engagement team and the ScreenNJ team take the lead in spreading awareness about cancer and encourage outcomes-oriented, evidence-based cancer screening, education, research, and outreach services.



ScreenNJ is a program, funded in part by the New Jersey Department of Health, that is administered by Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. A collaborative project of healthcare and community organizations across the state, it has an initial focus on colorectal cancer and lung cancer, which are among the most prevalent cancers in New Jersey. Its goals are to:

- Increase screening for colorectal and lung cancer
- Reduce cancer mortality rates
- Address and reduce disparities in smoking, screening and mortality rates
- Increase awareness and educate New Jersey residents and healthcare providers about the importance of cancer screening, early detection, and risk reduction.

Connections, Education, and **Cancer Screening Impact**

Communities were engaged in-person before COVID-19, then virtually through online presentations, social media outreach, and socially distanced on-site video productions with our cancer care providers and Community Cancer Action Board.

Building Community Cancer Control Solutions

- In 2020 alone, ScreenNJ provided more than \$1.4 million to community partners to enhance lung and colorectal screening and early detection.
- We addressed risk reduction of lung and colorectal cancers by engaging, supporting, and learning through partner coordination and connection, and by disseminating and implementing evidence-based interventions.

COE and ScreenNJ Impact: Cancer Screening and Prevention

Despite significant screening disruptions for most of last year, due to COVID-19, our partners still made tremendous progress.



COE and ScreenNI **Educate Our Communities** More than 200 partners across NJ

Building

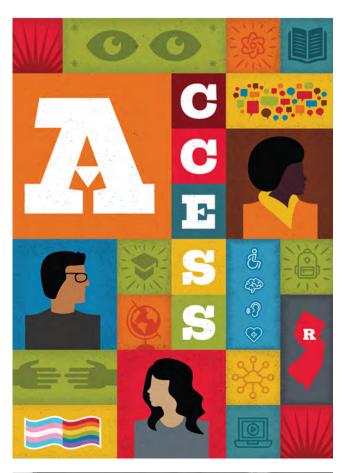
- **Partnership** 423 introductory, community engagement, and planning meetings
 - Connected with libraries, schools, and safety networks, as well as government, public health, faith-based, academic, and other established community organizations
 - 5,376 community partner contacts

Reach

- 483 community educational events
- 140 professional educational events

Impact

- 12,121 community participants
- 7,777 professional participants
- Shaping community policy, COVID-19 response through contributions in community-based meetings





COE and ScreenNJ Impact: Cancer Screening & Prevention

New Jerseyans Screening and Prevention Services Served Colorectal cancer screenings for 22,500+ uninsured/underinsured patients Lung cancer screenings completed 1.000 +Tobacco cessation counseling provided to patients 7,400 Insured and uninsured patients navigated to increase screening compliance 28,000





AMERICA'S GROW-A-ROW

our Institute of New Jursey for a convensation and demonstration with Shauna Alvarez, Chaf Educator



Register today at: https://bit.ly/3kFg0EN











Conduct and support a wide range of cancer-related community outreach and engagement activities with a particular focus on vulnerable populations

ScreenNJ Highlights

Due to COVID-19, ScreenNJ's 2020 efforts were modified to focus on delivering live and recorded educational content virtually. Screening and navigation efforts used home-based FIT testing, and telehealth tobacco cessation. Additional 2020 progress includes:

Medicaid Screening Report

ScreenNJ research partners conducted an analysis of colorectal cancer screening rates and practices (including geographic, gender, and race/ethnicity distributions) for New Jersey Medicaid patients. This report highlights successful evidence-based intervention and will be shared with partners, researchers, and policymakers.

NJ Cancer Education and Early Detection (NJCEED) Support in Newark

Collaboration and supplemental support for Cancer Education and Early Detection (NJCEED) with the S.A.V.E. program (Screening Access of Value to Essex Women and Men) run by Dr. Ana Natale in Newark led to:

- Increased staffing capacity for community education and patient recruitment
- Educational materials supplied to complement existing NJCEED resources
- Transportation funding to aid patients for whom transportation to/from a colonoscopy is a significant barrier to screening
- Staff training on recommended assessment and screening practices for patients with personal or family history that puts them at higher risk for developing colorectal cancer

Skill Building

For five weeks in September and October 2020, ScreenNJ and Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey's Community Outreach and Engagement team oversaw the "Be in the Know" program, empowering health care professionals to deliver community and patient outreach during November (Lung Cancer Awareness Month, including the Great American Smoke Out).

- 924 health care and public health professionals participated in a total of 15 live sessions focused on lung cancer screening, tobacco cessation, and vaping. Each session was designed to help clinicians, tobacco treatment specialists, and other medical, public health, and social service experts advance their knowledge of evidence-based practices to improve the health of their clients and patients.
- At one partner site, over 300 patients received low-dose CT scans (LDCTs) in 2020, approximately half of them between July and December. With support from ScreenNJ, this partner has increased its average LDCT patient volume by 50% (2019-2020 vs. 2017-2018), even with the COVID-reduced patient screening volumes. ScreenNJ has initiated an expanded lung cancer screening navigation and process improvement project with this partner, aiming to further increase screening rates and serve as a template for effective lung cancer screening navigation for other ScreenNJ partners.

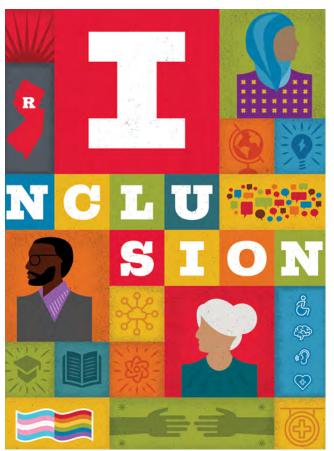


Responding to the COVID-19 Crisis

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, our most vulnerable communities needed information on how to protect themselves and how to access services such as food distribution and testing sites. Working with our partners through food pantries and community organizations, we distributed 4,500 Community Resource Guides in-person and online in high-priority areas identified by race/ethnicity, economic, and food insecurity data. These guides provided medical, food, housing, and employment-related resources, as well as healthy living and smoking cessation service information, in languages specific to the communities that received them.

In addition, 500 food donation boxes were supported by Rutgers Cancer Institute Community Outreach and Engagement, and distributed through partners with community food banks and pantries in vulnerable communities.

In conjunction with partners around the state, we also transitioned to virtual education and outreach around COVID-19 and cancer prevention and screening topics. Our free six-week, live cancer prevention webinar series for professionals—Community CARES: Cancer Action Resource Education Series—reached more than 300 community health workers, allied healthcare professionals, nurses, case managers, social workers, public health professionals and healthcare advocates. Participants learned, from Rutgers Cancer Control Specialists, how cancer develops, the different types of cancer prevention screenings that are available, what cancer clinical trials are, and the role that nutrition and a healthy lifestyle play in preventing cancer. We provided tiered Community Cancer Prevention certificates to those who completed two or more workshops in the series.











Foster basic, clinical, and population cancer research that is responsive to the catchment area, with a focus on reducing cancer health disparities

Cancer Research Education

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey's Community Outreach team accomplished this aim through a multifaceted approach including education of community members and professionals, and connecting Rutgers Cancer Institute basic, clinical, and population science researchers and the community at key points during the research process. Clinical trials and cancer research education are part of every presentation but, in some instances, separate sessions are devoted solely to this topic, as in the CARES educational program we offered to community health workers and health care providers during the summer.

Students also received research education through our Community Outreach and Engagement internship program, and through projects supported by ScreenNJ.

Rutgers University Community Researchers/Investigators in Science Program (RU-CRISP) Partnership

Teens learn about the research process and help design community-level intervention to address obesity and obesity-related illnesses among Mexican immigrant families.

Clinical Trials Education Programs and Tool Kits for Community Presentations (CHW-CARES Program)

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey is recognized for scientific leadership in laboratory and clinical research, for translation of scientific knowledge into promising treatments, and for serving the health needs of our local communities in promoting cancer prevention. The collective wealth of knowledge at the Institute allows

us to host a variety of educational programs on cancer prevention and screening while serving as a reliable source of information on cancer diagnosis, treatment options, clinical trials, and other resources.

We offer virtual educational webinars and workshops for both community and professional groups. Our Community Outreach and Engagement team frequently hosts panel discussions and presentations by cancer specialists, healthcare professionals, and survivors. We are honored to work with our community partners in building capacity to prevent cancer before it starts through our Train-the-Trainer Series. Our menu of offerings is continually updated and may be customized to meet a group's individual needs.

Engagement with Researchers

To facilitate catchment area-relevant research, in 2020 the Community Engagement and Outreach team (COE) and its Community Cancer Action Board (CCAB) engaged researchers representing basic, translational, and population science research programs. An example of their impact is that Dr. Anita Kinney, director of the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey and Rutgers School of Public Health, was awarded a Pfizer/American Cancer Society grant in response to a community-identified priority, "Promoting Informed Approaches in Precision Oncology and Immunotherapy (PINPOINT)."

At right: Lung cancer and colorectal cancer are among the most prevalent cancers in New Jersey.





This grant will enable Drs. Kinney, Shridar Ganesan, and Shawna Hudson to assess knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and sociocultural, clinical, and system-level factors that may explain why Black men and women diagnosed with cancer are less likely to receive molecular testing of tumors and precision oncology treatment and to participate in clinical trials.

COE-facilitated Proposal Review by CCAB

- 12 researchers received valuable CCAB member input on recruitment strategies and intervention development at CCAB meetings
- 5 members of CCAB participated in pilot grant proposal reviews
- A COE member and a CCAB member attend all Rutgers Cancer Institute Scientific Review Board meetings

COE Shares Catchment Area Information with Cancer Researchers

Through direct community outreach and via the convening of Catchment Area Research Meetings, Dr. Anita Kinney brings together community members and clinical and basic science researchers to discuss research alignment with the catchment area. Research Program Catchment Area Liaisons were identified for each Rutgers Cancer Institute research program in 2020. To further this collaborative effort, Dr. Sharon Pine was named the Director of Research.

COE reached 116 staff and faculty members of Rutgers Cancer Institute through presentations of catchment area information in meetings of clinical and basic science researchers and their teams.

COE also launched a "For Researchers" service to fulfill catchment area data requests and to facilitate engagement opportunities with CCAB members.



Research Programs	Catchment Area Liaison
Cancer Metabolism and Growth (CMG)	Tracy Anthony, PhD
Genomic Instability and Cancer Genetics (GICG)	Sharon Pine, PhD (Faculty Lead)
Cancer Pharmacology (CP)	Pranela Rameshwar, PhD
Clinical Investigations and Precision Therapeutics (CIPT)	Coral Omene, MD, PhD Eric Singer, MD, MA
Cancer Prevention and Control (CPC)	Jaya Satagopan, PhD

Research Program	COE Catchment Area Research Support
Cancer Metabolism and Growth	Liver cancer co-morbidity and risk factors (Wei-Xing Zong, PhD)
Cancer Pharmacology	Bladder cancer disparities and risk factors (X. F. Steven Zheng, PhD)
Genomic Instability and Cancer Genetics	Kidney and colorectal cancer and microplastic pollution (Zhiyuan Shen, MD, PhD and Chang S. Chan, PhD); Esophageal cancer targeted screening areas, Barrett's esophagus (Zhongren (David) Zhou, MD, PhD); Adrenocortical carcinoma racial and regional disparities (Chang S. Chan, PhD)
Clinical Investigations and Precision Therapeutics	Jersey City Medical Center collaboration (Stefan Balan, MD)
Cancer Prevention and Control	Brain cancer disparities in New Jersey (Catchment Area Research Program)





Foster basic, clinical, and population cancer research that is responsive to the catchment area, with a focus on reducing cancer health disparities

Driving Participation in Clinical Trials to Reduce Disparities

Our Community Outreach and Engagement team compiles a quarterly report of clinical trial accrual data to assure persons of all ages and gender identities as well as underrepresented communities are being included in research studies.

At each RWJBarnabas Health site, research staff has engaged in at least 10 meetings and has explored strategies to increase outreach and in-reach to increase accrual (the enrollment of patients in a clinical trial).

Lay and Nurse Navigator education increased opportunities for patients to engage in clinical trials.

The Rutgers Cancer Institute Community Cancer Action Board (CCAB) reviewed pilot proposals of Rutgers Cancer Institute researchers that addressed concerns about priority disparities identified by the CCAB. These Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence (CHECoE) 2020 funding awards support:

■ Sharon Pine, PhD, whose work *Genomic* **Contributions to Lung Cancer Disparities** explores the genes that influence how treatments for lung cancer are more effective **depending upon race.** A type of immunotherapy does not work as well in Black patients as in Whites, thus limiting treatment options. This is an example

of why people of all races must have the opportunity to participate in clinical trials: Such disparities can be revealed during the research phase of drug development, and optimized treatments can be offered.

■ Shawna Hudson, PhD, MA, BA, and Jennifer Tsui, PhD, MPH, BA, whose work Development of a Health Enhancement Resource System (HERS) addresses urban disparities for cervical cancer. These researchers are testing an adaptation to their existing health coaching intervention to make it more accessible to diverse groups of women. The findings will provide support for a larger study on the feasibility of the text messaging adaptation in New Jersey.

■ Paul Duberstein, PhD, and Biren Saraiya, MD, PhD, whose work A Pilot of the VOICE 2 Intervention: Latinx and African American/Black **Participants** helps patients with advanced cancer, their caregivers, and oncologists communicate about care, including palliative and end-of-life care. VOICE 2 is studying how to tailor this intervention to Latinx and African American/Black individuals.

Patricia Wray

Jean Martin

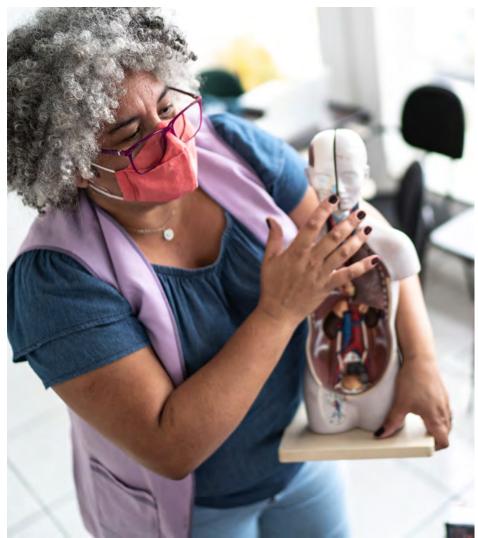
Fallopian Tube Cancer Survivo

Harvey Paretzky

VIDEOS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: cinj.org/outreach/community-outreach-and-engagement











Throughout 2020, patient navigation has been a key evidence-based intervention supported by ScreenNJ at partner sites serving low-income, un- and underinsured patient populations.

ScreenNJ focused on supporting and expanding access to cancer screening navigators at partners across the state, including lung and colorectal cancer screening navigators who coordinate services across multiple hospital sites and counties within partner health systems (e.g., RWJBarnabas Health, Inspira Health, Virtua Health, Hackensack Meridian Health, and Atlantic Health).





Foster basic, clinical, and population cancer research that is responsive to the catchment area, with a focus on reducing cancer health disparities

Research Findings Dissemination

- Launched bimonthly Community Outreach and Engagement newsletter including "Research Corner" highlighting a cancer researcher in each issue. Read current and past issues, and join our email list, at cinj.org/outreach/community-cancer-actionboard-newsletter-archive
- Researcher presentations at bimonthly Community Cancer Action Board meetings (12 this past year)
- The Community Outreach and Engagement team is amassing Science to Sidewalk—a video library of researchers in dialogue with community members on topics related to cancer care and cancer research, especially clinical trials, with a focus on underrepresented communities and communities of color.

Supporting Navigators to Increase Screening and Clinical Trial Referrals

Our Community Outreach and Engagement team collaborated with RWJBarnabas Health Oncology Nurse Navigator (ONN) leadership and conducted a survey of ONNs to identify opportunities to improve patient referrals to clinical trials. The survey results prompted:

- 3 new clinical trial metrics for ONNs
- Partnership with Rutgers Cancer Institute Office of Human Research Studies (OHRS) to develop a clinical trial education program for ONNs
- ONN practice changes leading to patient education about clinical trials during Navigation patient visits. Refinement of ONN documentation will include clinical trial referral metrics for 2021









To gain a Comprehensive Cancer Center designation, the highest ranking given by the National Cancer Institute, a center must meet rigorous criteria in cancer care. research, prevention, and education and demonstrate an added depth and breadth of research, as well as substantial transdisciplinary research that bridges these scientific areas.

Rutgers Cancer Institute operates as a Consortium Cancer Center between Rutgers University and Princeton University, as identified by the NCI. Rutgers Cancer Institute brings together the top cancer researchers and clinicians throughout New Jersey to apply the latest technologies, therapies, and approaches to improve cancer diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

The consortium partnership with Princeton University is one of 16 in the nation and is the only one in which the parent

designated cancer center is located in New Jersey. NCI recognizes a Consortium Cancer Center when investigators from separate scientific institutions partner to contribute actively to the development and achievement of a shared cancer research agenda. Consortium Cancer Centers demonstrate a high level of scientific engagement and interaction, with each member institution adding strategic value to the research mission.

Our Policy Impact

Collaboration with the **Rutgers Tobacco Dependence Program**, NJ Quit Centers, and **NJ Quitline**

Dr. Michael Steinberg's team at the Rutgers Tobacco Dependence Program worked with Rutgers Cancer Institute's Community Outreach and Engagement and ScreenNJ on educational programming, policy development, and dissemination to health care providers and members of the public information on lung cancer screening and tobacco cessation.

These efforts led to increases in screening and prevention resources for patients across the state. The team facilitated the collaboration of the NJ Quitline, NJ Quit Centers, and ScreenNJ partner sites to link clinical providers at primary care and tobacco cessation services with local lung cancer screening sites. These linkages are particularly important to ScreenNJ-funded sites that provide screenings for the un- and underinsured.

Policy-related projects supported in part by Rutgers Cancer Institute and ScreenNI include:

- A policy analysis of 21 tobacco bills—representing 15 states—by Drs. Cristine Delnevo, Shawna Hudson, Mary Hrywma, and Jane Lewis (R01CA231139)
- An initiative led by Drs. Michael Steinberg and Mary Hrywna, who have received funding from the NCI Moonshot C3I, to increase tobacco treatment within Comprehensive Cancer Centers (NIH/NCI Administrative Supplement P30CA072720)
- The State contract for the Quit Center, focused on the integration of lung cancer screening eligibility into the Ouit Center statewide electronic clinical assessment form, awarded to Dr. Michael Steinberg

New Jersey Cancer Control Plan 2020–2025

- Rutgers Cancer Institute Community Outreach and Engagement staff is participating in the development of the 2020–2025 New Jersey Cancer Control plan, in the areas of cervical (Dr. Rita Musanti), prostate (Dr. Anita Kinney), and lung (Ms. Emily Carey PerezdeAlejo) cancer prevention.
- Dr. Anita Kinney is Chair of the Governor's Task Force on Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment, overseeing the development of the Cancer Control State Plan.











Community-Engaged and Equity-Focused Pilot Awards, Disparities Focused Grants, and Research Initiatives

UPDATES Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence

Funded Pilot Awards

The annual internal Cancer Health Equity funding program supports ongoing scholarship and sparks new research ventures in the broad arena of addressing cancer disparities and advancing health equity. Researchers who have not previously worked in, but whose research could be applied to, cancer health equities and the catchment area of New Jersey are strongly encouraged to apply. Cancer health equities include race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, or problems unique to New Jersey. To date, the Center has awarded a total of five funded research projects.

Fiscal Year 2021

- Exploring Patient and Caregiver Perspectives and Experiences with Financial Toxicity PI: Biren Saraiya MD; Paul Duberstein, PhD; Denalee O'Malley, PhD
- Developing Patient-Derived Organoids for Health Equity Studies PI: Hatem Sabaawy, MD, PhD

Fiscal Year 2020

- A Pilot of the VOICE 2 Caregiver Intervention: Latinx and African American/Black Participants PI: Paul Duberstein, PhD; CO-I: Biren Saraiya, MD; Shawna Hudson, PhD; Shou-En Lu, PhD
- Development of a Health Enhancement Resource System (HERS) to Address Urban, Cervical Cancer Disparities PI: Shawna Hudson, PhD; Co-I: Jennifer Tsui, PhD; Charletta Ayers, MD
- Genomic Contributors to Lung Cancer
 Health Disparities PI: Sharon R. Pine, PhD; Co-I:
 Hossein Khiabanian, PhD; Jaya Satagopan, PhD;
 Hatem E. Sabaawy MD, PhD; Jyoti Malhotra, MD

Disparities-Focused Grants

Members of the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence are engaged in important ongoing cancer health disparities research. In 2020, four investigators were awarded cancer health disparities-focused grants.

- 2021–2023, Pl: Denalee O'Malley, PhD, LSW,
 "Optimizing Colorectal Cancer Screening
 Among Patients with Diabetes in
 Safety-Net Primary Care Settings: Targeting
 Implementation Approaches" Funded by
 National Cancer Institute (NCI). K99CA256043.
- 2020–2022, PI: Anita Kinney, PhD, RN, FAAN, FABMR, "Reducing Racial Disparities in Cancer Care with Promoting Informed Approaches in Precision Oncology and Immunotherapy (PINPOINT)" Funded by American Cancer Society (ACS)/Pfizer.
- 2020–2025, MPI: Elisa Bandera, MD, PhD, Co-Pls: Dr. Jennifer A. Doherty, MS, PhD (University of Utah), Scarlett Gomez, MPH, PhD (UCSF), and Lawrence H. Kushi, ScD (Kaiser Permanente Northern California), "Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Ovarian Cancer Treatment and Survival: An Integrative Approach" Funded by National Cancer Institute (NCI). R01CA243188.
- 2020–2025, Pl: Sharon Pine, PhD, "Discovery and Therapeutic Targeting of Biological Determinants of Lung Cancer Health Disparities" Funded by National Cancer Institute (NCI). R01CA239093.

Works-in-Progress Meetings

The main goal of the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence-supported Works-in-Progress meetings is to help investigators advance their research programs and prepare for submission of extramural grant applications.

These meetings focus on sharing new research ideas, specific aims of investigators, projects, updates on research progress, and new research methods or technologies. The format typically features a short presentation by the researcher(s) followed by substantial discussions aimed at critiquing and advancing the research projects. To date we have organized twelve Works-in-Progress meetings from researchers on various cancer health disparity-focused topics.

Fiscal Year 2021

- 2/25/2021: Jaya Satagopan, PhD, Professor,
 Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology,
 Rutgers School of Public Health, presented
 "Breast Cancer Risk Distribution in South Asian
 Americans—Estimation and Implications for
 Disease Prevention."
- 2/22/2021: Charles Senteio, Assistant Professor, Communications, presented "Developing a Treatment Decision Aid for Black Prostate Cancer Patients to Enhance Patient-Clinician Interaction."
- 2/2/2021: Racquel (Kelly) Kohler, PhD, Instructor, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Rutgers School of Public Health, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, presented "Community-Based HPV Screening in Botswana."

- 10/27/2020: Racquel (Kelly) Kohler, PhD, Instructor, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Rutgers School of Public Health, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, presented "Developing an Adaptive Intervention Targeting HPV Vaccine-Hesitant Parents."
- 9/15/2020: Jaya Satagopan, PhD, Professor,
 Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology,
 Rutgers School of Public Health, presented
 "Multidomain and Multi-Level Understanding of Cancer Screening in South Asian Americans."

Fiscal Year 2020

- 4/20/2020: Adana Llanos, PhD, MPH, Assistant
 Professor, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology,
 Rutgers School of Public Health, presented
 "Adiposity, Adipokines, and Aggressive Tumor
 Clinicopathology: Evaluating Mechanisms
 Underlying Outcomes Disparities Among a
 Sample of Racially/Ethnically Diverse Women
 with Breast Cancer."
- 4/14/2020: Jesse Plascak, PhD, Assistant
 Professor, Department of Biostatistics and
 Epidemiology, Rutgers School of Public Health,
 presented "Time-Varying Relationships
 Between Built Environment Factors, Tumor
 Stage, and Colorectal Cancer Survival:
 Leveraging Population-Based Cancer Registry
 Data to Study Health Disparities."
- 4/07/2020: Racquel (Kelly) Kohler, PhD, Instructor, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Rutgers School of Public Health, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, presented "Trauma-Informed Cervical Cancer Screening Among Low-Income Women."





- 2/17/2020: Jaya Satagopan, PhD, Professor,
 Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology,
 Rutgers School of Public Health, presented "The
 Landscape of Cancer Communication in India."
- 2/12/2020: Pamela Valera, PhD, MSW, Assistant Professor, Department of Urban-Global Public Health, Rutgers School of Public Health, presented "A Randomized Controlled Trial of Smoking Cessation Treatment Among Incarcerated Smokers in U.S. Prison."
- 1/14/2020: Charles Senteio, Assistant Professor, Communications, presented "Developing Technology-Enabled Tools to Help Prepare Recently Diagnosed African American Prostate Cancer."
- 1/13/2020: Dena O'Malley, PhD, Instructor, Family Medicine, presented "Optimizing Colorectal Cancer Screening Among Patients with Diabetes in Safety-Net Primary Care Settings: Targeting Implementation Approaches."

Distinguished Lecturers

The Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence hosts a series of distinguished lectures that aims to present excellent speakers exploring intriguing cancer health equity topics in an engaging style. The lectures address a broad audience, which includes all members of the Center, members of the Rutgers University community, and members of our Community Cancer Action Board. We have hosted the following five distinguished lecturers to date, presenting on very important cancer health disparity-focused topics.

- 3/3/2021: Vish Viswanath, PhD, Lee Kum Kee Professor of Health Communication; Director, Harvard Chan India Research Centre; Director, Harvard Chan/DFCI Center for Translational Communication Science; Co-Director, Lee Kum Sheung Center for Health and Happiness, presented "Measuring What Matters: Data Absenteeism, Cancer Communication and Equity."
- 1/12/2021: Rick Kittles, PhD, Associate Director of Health Equities, City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center; Professor and Director, Division of Health Equities, Department of Population Sciences, presented "Leveraging Genetic Ancestry to Study Health Disparities."
- 11/12/2020: Sandi Pruitt, PhD, Associate Professor, Population and Data Sciences, UT Southwestern Medical Center, presented "Populations and Places: Using Multi- Level Data to Improve Cancer Equity."
- 2/20/2020: Peter Guarnaccia, PhD, Professor and Medical Anthropologist, Department of Human Ecology, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers University, presented "Cultural Issues in Assessing Quality of Life in Cancer Research."
- 1/13/2020: Lucile Adams Campbell, PhD,
 Professor of Oncology, Associate Director for Minority
 Health and Health Disparities Research Senior
 Associate Dean for Community Outreach and
 Engagement at Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer
 Center at Georgetown University Medical Center,
 presented "The Effect of Exercise Intervention
 on Obesity, Mets and Allostatic Load in Black
 Women at Increased Risk of Breast Cancer."





Initiatives for 2021

This year, the Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence will focus our efforts on Rutgers Cancer Institute priority cancers, behaviors, and communityidentified priority needs integrating Community Outreach and Engagement throughout the developing Rutgers Cancer Institute Strategic Plan.

New Jersey's rich racial and ethnic diversity provides an unprecedented opportunity to play a salient role in shaping our collective response to the needs of the communities we serve, which can inform national efforts as well.

Expanding Our Team

- We welcomed two Breast Cancer Navigators to our team in January of 2021, and a Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist.
- For continuous monitoring of New Jersey's cancer burden, a new staff member will be added to serve as the Rutgers Cancer Institute Catchment Area Data Analyst.

Supporting Cancer Screening Navigation Statewide

- To improve access to cancer screening, we will provide financial and technical support for navigation staff at partner organizations throughout the state through the ScreenNJ program.
- We will continue developing, evaluating, and disseminating cancer screening navigation models, tools, and best practices.

Supporting Cancer Research through Awareness and Education

■ Our Community Cancer Action Board (CCAB) members consult researchers through our new Community Engaged Research Café, a scheduled opportunity for rapid proposal review of community input.

AREAS OF FOCUS:

■ Precision Medicine—The researchers of the Rutgers Cancer Institute Precision Medicine Research Program, under the leadership of Shridar Ganesan, PhD, investigate the most appropriate treatments based on the genetic characteristics of an individual's cancer. By analyzing the specific cancer DNA of a tumor, doctors can make informed decisions on the most personalized and effective ways to treat cancer for each individual patient.

- Our CCAB recognized and requested focus on this area of research because the lower participation rate of minority groups in precision medicine research has resulted in health care disparities in precision health and genomic medicine approaches that have the potential to provide personalized treatments and improve quality of life for cancer survivors. The Rutgers Cancer Institute Community Outreach and Engagement team responded to this concern through genetic/genomic public education programs this year, in addition to bringing members of the CCAB onto research advisory boards for genomic-focused clinical trials being conducted by Rutgers Cancer Institute researchers.
- **Hereditary Cancers**—Genetic testing holds the promise of alerting families to increased risk for cancer and positions them to act proactively on that risk. However, disparities exist in the use of cancer genetic risk assessments among ethnically and geographically diverse communities. Raising awareness in these communities and facilitating participation in studies such as the Genetic Risk Assessment for Cancer Education and Empowerment (GRACE; Dr. Anita Kinney, Primary Investigator) will provide evidence for improved interventions to increase access and improve family communication regarding cancer genetic testing. The Community Outreach and Engagement team will focus on disseminating current information on genetic testing as well as linking community members to Research Advisory Boards to ensure that underrepresented communities are at the table during new study development.

■ Clinical Trials Education to Break Down
Mistrust—The CCAB membership has identified low
participation by African American/Black, Hispanic,
and other racial minorities in NJ as an area of concern.
This upcoming year will see the development and
rollout of a Clinical Trials Awareness campaign that
will present episodic short videos, which will be
disseminated through social media, featuring cancer
survivors and clinical trial participants addressing
relevant issues around the topic of clinical trial access
and participation.

Innovative Education Platforms and Content

■ Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) is a new telementoring program designed to create virtual communities of learners by bringing together health care providers and subject matter experts. Our first ECHO program will explore cancer prevention, screening, and cancer history-taking for Community Health Workers. The goal is to build Community Health Worker capacity for supporting cancer screening, genetic testing, and clinical trial participation in underrepresented and underserved communities.

- Educational content in community-friendly formats is being developed and delivered in collaboration with New Jersey partners such as America's Grow-a-Row in Pittstown, the North Jersey Health Collaborative, national and local Rutgers Cooperative Extension specialists, and Lazos America Unida, Inc. The Arts Academy working group will focus on addressing mistrust in health care by our communities of color in 2021.
- Rutgers Cancer Institute's Community Outreach and Engagement team is looking forward to this summer's launch of the National Cancer Institute Youth Enjoy Science (YES) Research Education Program (R25: PAR-17-059), funded by a two-year grant awarded to Dr. Sunita Chaudhary. COE will be providing education and hands-on outreach experiences to young people and teachers over the course of this two-year grant period.





Community Partners

Our Community Outreach and Engagement team, including our ScreenNJ staff, partners with health care and community organizations at the local, regional, and state level to provide impactful educational programming and cancer screening services.

We thank our partners for their dedication and hard work throughout this challenging year, during which we continued to make ongoing progress on our shared goal: Ensuring everyone in our communities has the same access to the information and resources necessary to take control of their health



See a full list of partners on this collaborative project at screennj.org/partners

State and National Partners:

American Cancer Society American Lung Association

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey NJACTS

New Jersey Department of Corrections

New Jersey Department of Health, including the Office

of Cancer Control and Prevention, the NJ Cancer Registry

New Jersey Department of Human Services

New Jersey Hospital Association

Community Health Centers and Clinical Partners:

Acadia Pharmaceuticals

Aerofarms

AIDS Education and Training Center

America's Grow-a-Row The Arc of Atlantic County The Arc of Camden County

The Arc of Salem County

Atlantic County Library Atlantic Health System

Atlantic Health System—Chilton Medical Center, Pompton Plains

Atlantic Health System—Hackettstown Medical Center Atlantic Health System—Morristown Medical Center

Atlantic Health System—Newton Medical Center

Atlantic Health System—Overlook Medical Center, Summit

Atlantic Health System—Overlook Medical Center,

Union Campus

Atlantic Health System—Summit Atlantic Medical Imaging (AMI)

Atlantic Prevention Resources

Atlantic Ouit Center Atlanticare Health System

Atlanticare Imaging Services—Egg Habor

Atlanticare Regional Medical Center—Mainland Campus AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, Atlantic City Campus

Bayshore Medical Center

Bergen County Department of Health Services

(Bergen County NJCEED)

Bergen-Hudson Regional Chronic Disease Coalition

Burlington and Camden County Regional Chronic

Disease Coalition

Burlington County Library System

Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers

Camden County Department of Health & Human Services

Camden County Library System

Cancer Reflection Education Worldwide

Cancer Support Community Monmouth Medical Center

Cape Assist

Cape Atlantic Coalition for Health (RCDC)

Cape May County Health Department (Cape May NJCEED)

Cape May County Library—Cape May City Branch

Cape May County Library—Cape May Court House Branch

Cape May County Library—Lower Twp. Branch Cape May County Library—Sea Isle City Branch Cape May County Library—Stone Harbor Branch

Cape May County Library System Cape May County Quit Center

Capital Health

Capital Health Medical Center—Hopewell

CarePoint Health Network

CarePoint Health Network—Bayonne Medical Center

CarePoint Health Network—Christ Hospital CarePoint Health Network—Hoboken University

Medical Center Center for Asian Health

The Center for Prevention and Counseling

The Center for Social Justice Education and

LGBT Communities

CentraState Healthcare System

Centrastate Medical Center/Princeton Radiology Group

Cherry Hill Free Clinic

Children's Home Society Family Success Center

Chilton Medical Center Christ Baptist Church

Church Women United Pantry **Churches Improving Communities**

City of Newark CityLife Health Clinic Clara Maass Medical Center

Collaborative Support Program of NJ

Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Community FoodBank of New Jersey—Southern Branch

Community FoodBank of NJ (Headquarters)

Community Investment Strategies

Community Medical Center

CompleteCare Cape May—Cape May Court House Medical CompleteCare Cape May—Wildwood Medical & Dental CompleteCare Cumberland—Bridgeton Adult & Specialty

CompleteCare Cumberland—Bridgeton Pediatric &

Family Medical

CompleteCare Cumberland—Bridgeton Women's Medical

CompleteCare Cumberland—Community Pharmacy
CompleteCare Cumberland—Millville Medical & Dental

CompleteCare Cumberland—Upper Deerfield Medical

CompleteCare Cumberland—Vineland Health Campus

CompleteCare Cumberland—Vineland Ritecare @Shoprite

CompleteCare Cumberland—Vineland Women's Medical

CompleteCare Gloucester—

Medical Professionals in Glassboro

CompleteCare Gloucester—

Woodbury Family Medicine Center

CompleteCare Health Network

Contruction Labor Union 472

Crossroads4Hope (formerly Cancer Support Community

of Central New Jersey)

Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA

East Brunswick Public Library

Edison Department of Health & Human Services

Edison Township Public Schools

El Poder Program

Elijah's Promise

Eric B. Chandler Health Center

Essex Passaic Wellness Coalition

(Regional Chronic Disease Coalition)

Evolve Pink

Family Support Organization of Middlesex County

The Family Treatment Center at

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

Fayette St Senior Building

Focus Hispanic and Family Success Center

Food Bank of South Jersey

Freehold Borough Education Association

Freehold Health Department

Gay and Lesbian Student Education Network (GLSEN)

Gender Center of New Jersey

Gloucester County Department of Health & Senior Services

Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition

Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce

Hackensack—Riverview Medical Center (Lung screening)

Hackensack Meridian Health JFK Imaging at

Muhlenberg, Plainfield

Hackensack Meridian Health JFK Imaging Center—

Hackensack Meridian Health JFK Medical Center—

Hackensack Meridian Health Network—

Health Village Imaging

Hackensack Meridian Health NJ Quit Center (Bergen)

Hackensack Meridian Health NJ Quit Center (Hudson)

Hackensack Meridian Health NJ Quit Center (Passaic)

Hackensack Meridian Health NJ Quit Services

Hackensack Meridian Health

Hackensack Palisades Medical Center

Hackensack Radiology Group

Hackensack Radiology Group New Century Imaging Center

Hackensack Riverview Medical Center

Hackensack University Medical Center

Hackettstown Medical Center

Health Plainfield Coalition Partner List

Health Village Imaging—Jackson

Health Village Imaging—Manahawkin

Health Village Imaging—Wall

Healthier Middlesex

Healthier Perth Amboy

Healthy Plainfield Coalition

Herbert Hoover Middle School

Hillsborough Township Health Department

Hoboken Family Planning—Summit Center

Hoboken Family Planning—West New York

Hoboken Family Planning—Main Site

(Hudson & Union County NJCEED)

Holmdel Imaging, LLC (Lung screening)

HomeFirst

Hudson Pride Center

Humanity Cares For All, Inc.

Hunterdon-Mercer Chronic Disease Coalition

The ImageCare Center

ImageCare Center—Denville Diagnostics

ImageCare Center—Radiology Center of Fair Lawn

ImageCare Center—Star MRI of Wayne

ImageCare Center at Middletown

ImageCare Center at Millburn

ImageCare Center at Morristown

ImageCare Center at Radiology Associates of Hackettstown

ImageCare Center at Sparta

ImageCare Center at West Orange

ImageCare Center at Woodbridge

Inland Family Success Center

Inspira CEED (Cumberland County NJCEED)

Inspira CEED (Gloucester County NJCEED)

Inspira CEED (Salem County NJCEED)

Inspira Health Center – Woodbury Imaging Center

Inspira Health Center Bridgeton

Inspira Health Network

Inspira Imaging Center—Bridgeton

Inspira Imaging Center—Delsea

Inspira Imaging Center—Glassboro

Inspira Imaging Center—Haddon Township

Inspira Imaging Center—South Delsea

Inspira Imaging Center—Tomlin Station

Inspira Imaging Center—West Sherman

Inspira Medical Center Elmer

Inspira Medical Center Imaging Services—Elmer



Inspira Medical Center Imaging Services—Mullica Hill Inspira Medical Center Imaging Services—Vineland

Inspira Medical Center Mullica Hill Inspira Medical Center Vineland

Inspira NJ Ouit Services

Inspira Quit Center—Cumberland Inspira Quit Center—Salem

Integrity House

International Youth Organization

Iris House—A Center for Women with HIV Irvington Family Development Center Irvington Public Schools—Florence Avenue

Jazz4Prostate Cancer Awareness

Jersey City Department of Health & Human Services

Jersey City Free Public Library

Jersey City Free Public Library—Miller Branch

Jersey City Free Public Library—West Bergen Branch

Jersey City Medical Center

Jersey Shore Imaging/University Radiology—Neptune

Jersey Shore University Medical Center Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey

IFK Medical Center John Snow Inc (JSI) Kelsch Associates Kids in Business

Kinney Community Gardens Larchmont Imaging Associates LLC

Larchmont Imaging Associates LLC—Medford Larchmont Imaging Associates LLC—Moorestown Larchmont Imaging Associates LLC—Mount Laurel Larchmont Imaging Associates LLC—Willingboro

Lazos America Unida, Inc. The Lennard Clinic Libby's Choice

Livingston Health Department / Millburn Health Department Livingston Library—Ruth L. Rockwood Memorial Library

Maplewood Health Department Marion Bolden Student Center Mason Gross School of the Arts MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper MD Anderson Cancer Center—CEED Memorial Sloan Kettering—Basking Ridge

Memorial Sloan Kettering—Bergen

Memorial Sloan Kettering—Monmouth Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Mercer County Library—Lawrence Headquarters Branch

Mercer County Library—West Windsor Branch

Mercer County Library System Metuchen Public Library

Middlesex County—George J Otlowski Sr. Center for Mental Health Care (Partial Care Facility)

Middlesex County College

Middlesex County Office of Health Services

Middlesex/Union Regional Chronic Disease Coalition

Mom's Quit Connection for Families

Monmouth Family Health Center – Main Center Monmouth Medical Center Main Campus Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus

Montclair Radiology—Jersey City Montclair Radiology—Montclair Montclair Radiology—Nutley Montclair Radiology—West Caldwell Montclair Radiology Group

Montvale Free Public Library

Morris Somerset Regional Chronic Disease Coalition (RCDC)

Move for Hunger My Latina Girl Magic, LLC NAACP—New Brunswick Area New Brunswick Tomorrow New Hope Now Partners

New Jersey Community Research Initiatives New Jersey Food Democracy Collaborative—

Stockton University

The New Jersey HIV Planning Group New Jersey Interfaith Center for Cancer Care

(Formerly New Jersey Congregational Center for Cancer Care

New Jersey Performing Arts Center New Jersev Prevention Network

The New Jersey Primary Care Association

New Jersev Ouitline

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Newark Office of Early Childhood Education The Newark Public Library Main Branch Newark Public Schools/Board of Education

Newman Street Imaging Center—Hackensack Radiology Group

Newton Medical Center

North Brunswick Public Library North Jersev Health Collaborative

The North Ward Center

North Ward Family Success Center Ocean County Library System Ocean Health Initiatives, Inc. Ocean Medical Center

Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance O'Donnell-Dempsey Senior Center

Office of University-Community Partnerships (Newark)

OHI Brick Health Center OHI Freehold Health Center OHI Lakewood Health Center OHI Little Egg Health Center OHI Manahawkin Health Center OHI Manchester Health Center

OHI School Based Health Center—Clifton Avenue Grade School OHI School Based Health Center—Lakewood High School

OHI Toms River Health Center Our Lady of Fatima Pantry Overlook Medical Center Palisades Medical Center The Parent Impact

Park Ave Elementary School

Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of

Northern New Jersev

Passaic County Department of Health Perth Amboy Housing Authority

Phoenix Center for Rehabilitation and Pediatrics

Prevention Resource Network The PRIDE Center of New Jersev Princeton Radiology—Marlboro Princeton Radiology—Mercerville

Princeton Radiology—Monroe, Monroe Centre at Forsgate Princeton Radiology—Princeton, Princeton Healthcare Center

Princeton Radiology Group

Project H.O.P.E. West Street Health Center

Puerto Rican Action Board Quit 4 Kids For Families

Radiology Affiliates Imaging (RAI)

Radiology Affiliates Imaging (RAI)—Hamilton Radiology Affiliates Imaging (RAI)—Lawrenceville

Radiology Associates of Ridgewood

Randolph Township Health Department Raritan Bay Medical Center Perth Amboy

Region 10 Cancer and Chronic Disease Coalition

Region 9 Housing Corporation

Richard Hall Community Health & Wellness Center

Richmond Towers Senior Center and Housing

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Rockaway Township Health Department

Rowan Community Health Center

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Rutgers Community Partnerships

Rutgers Health

Rutgers Health—Family Medicine at Monument Square

Rutgers Interdisciplinary Opioid Trainers Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension

Rutgers School of Nursing

Rutgers Tobacco Dependence Program

RWJ University Hospital Hamilton

RWJ University Hospital Somerset

RWJ University Hospital-RWJ Fitness and Wellness Center New Brunswick

RWJBarnabas Health

RWJBarnabas Health—Oncology Service Line

RWJBarnabas Health—Tumor Registry

RWJBarnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery RWJBarnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery

Ouit Center—Essex

RWJBarnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery

Ouit Center—Mercer

RWJBarnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery

Quit Center—Middlesex

RWJBarnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery

Quit Center-Monmouth

RWJBarnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery

Quit Center—Ocean

RWJBarnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery

Ouit Center—Somerset

RWJBarnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery

Quit Center—Union

S.A.V.E Women and Men Project (Essex County NJCEED)

Saint Barnabas Medical Center

Saint James Health Center

Saint Michael's Medical Center In The Pink Program

Saint Peter's Healthcare System, Inc.

Salem County Department of Health

Sampson Senior Center

Shore Medical Center—Cancer Center

South Orange & Maplewood Senior Program

The Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative

Southern Ocean Medical Center

Southwest Council

SPAN Parent Advocacy Network

St. Josephs Health System—University Medical Center

St. James School

St. Joseph's Health

St. Josephs Health System—Ambulatory Imaging Center at Clifton

St. Josephs Health System—University Imaging

Summit Medical Group

Summit Medical Group—Berkeley Heights

Summit Medical Group—Florham Park

Summit Medical Group—Livingston

Summit Medical Group—Westfield

Sussex County Library—Main Branch

Sussex-Warren Regional Chronic Disease Coalition

Trenton Health Team

Trinitas Regional Medical Center

The Trust for Public Lands

Union County Division on Aging/ADRC

United Way of Greater Union County

University Hospital, Newark

University Radiology Group

Virtua CEED

Virtua Medical Group

Visiting Nurse Association Health Group

(Monmouth & Ocean County NJCEED)

Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey—

Freehold Family Health Center

Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey—

Keyport Primary Care Center

Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey—

Red Bank Community Health Center

Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey Community

Health Center—Main Facility

VMG—Primary Care Browns Mills

VMG—Primary Care Camden

VMG—Primary Care Cherry Hill

VMG—Primary Care Cooper River

VMG—Primary Care Laurel Springs

VMG—Primary Care Lindenwold

VMG—Primary Care Mansfield

VMG—Primary Care Moorestown

VMG—Primary Care Tatem Brown

VMG—Women's Primary Care Moorestown

Warren County Health Department

Warrenbrook Senior Center

Wellcare

West Orange Health Department

West Orange Public Library

Westfield Recreation Department

Windsor Radiology, LLC

(Women's Wellness Center at Integrity House

Woodbridge Community Center

Woodbridge Township Health & Human Services

Woodbridge Township Parks & Recreation

YM/YWHA

YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge & South Amboy

Zufall Dover—Medical

Zufall Hackettstown—Medical/Dental

Zufall Health Center

Zufall Morristown—Medical/Dental

Zufall Newton—Medical/Dental Zufall Somerville—Medical

Zufall West Orange—Medical/Dental





Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

195 Little Albany Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08903 CHEmembership@cinj.rutgers.edu