

Lifelines

from the National Cancer Institute



New Cancer Statistics Show Overall Drop in Rates of Cancer Incidence and Death; Breast Cancer Top Cause of Cancer Death for Latinos

By the National Cancer Institute

Every year, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) collaborates with other organizations to release the *Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer*. When this report is released, the question is always the same: Are we making any progress against cancer? This year, the report confirms that we are making advances in the fight against many types of this disease.

The *Annual Report to the Nation* reveals that, over the past decade or so, there has been a decrease of nearly 1 percent each year in the incidence of new cases of cancer and an even greater decline, of about 1.6 percent each year, in the rate of cancer deaths. It may not seem like much, but a drop of just 1 percent each year in the rates of new cancer cases and deaths is significant. That could be tens of thousands of people spared the pain of this disease in a given year. The decline in cancer rates can be attributed to aggressive efforts to reduce risk in large populations, to provide for early detection, and to develop new therapies.

Although the Hispanic community has lower cancer rates than some other racial/ethnic groups, it still struggles with this disease. For many Latinos, when cancer hits home, it is a neighbor down the street, a hardworking friend saving up to buy a bigger house, a weekend soccer colleague, or a parent or some other family member. The report points out that breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for Latinas, and lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for Latino men. Although colorectal cancer death rates declined among Hispanics overall, as they did among every other racial/ethnic group, they didn't decline for Hispanic women.

So what does this mean for the Hispanic community? NCI wants you to know that there are places to turn to for help and reliable information when you want to know more about cancer or when you are confronted with the disease. As the primary federal leader in cancer research, NCI continues to maintain a focus on cancer health disparities as a part of its portfolio of education, awareness, and research activities.

You can never know too much about cancer. There are numerous options to access the many publications and other educational materials offered by NCI. If you prefer to search the Internet,

visit the primary Spanish language Web site of the NCI, www.cancer.gov/espanol. Our site links you to a wide variety of cancer education and awareness materials, from publications to updates about research. You can also order free publications at the Web site. Or, if you prefer, you can use the telephone. Dial 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237) to talk — in Spanish — with an information specialist from NCI's Cancer Information Service.

For the Hispanic community, knowledge is one of the primary keys to maintaining good health. Take advantage of every resource available to you to get smart about cancer.

NCI leads the National Cancer Program and the NIH effort to dramatically reduce the burden of cancer and improve the lives of cancer patients and their families, through research into prevention and cancer biology, the development of new interventions, and the training and mentoring of new researchers. For more information about cancer, please visit the NCI Web site at www.cancer.gov or call NCI's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237).

Related Resources:

- Annual Report to the Nation Finds Continued Declines in Overall Cancer Rates; Special Feature Highlights Current and Projected Trends in Colorectal Cancer (<http://www.cancer.gov/newscenter/pressreleases/ReportNation2009Release>)
- Archive of the Annual Reports to the Nation (http://www.seer.cancer.gov/report_to_nation/archive.html)
- NCI's Cancer Information Service (CIS) (<http://www.cancer.gov/aboutnci/cis>)
- Colon and Rectal Cancer (<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/colon-and-rectal>)