



Vermont State Cancer Plan 2007 Activities Report

PREVENTING FUTURE CANCERS

Tobacco cessation programs for youth and adults & 2nd hand smoke exposure (3 objectives)

The Vermont Department of Health Tobacco Control Program implemented a six-prong approach to reduce tobacco use in Vermont. These include 1) nineteen tobacco-free community coalitions, 2) over 280 school-based tobacco use prevention programs, 3) hospital-based cessation services as well as a toll-free telephone “Quitline”, 4) use of media for public education, 5) enforcement of laws banning tobacco sales to minors, and 6) program evaluation. For more information, please visit <http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/tobacco/index.aspx>

Obesity control and fruits & vegetable consumption (6 objectives)

The Vermont Department of Health’s Fit and Healthy Vermonters obesity prevention program is implementing components of the state plan for nutrition and physical activity. Several target areas have been identified that engage communities, build collaborations, develop plans and carry out the goals of the program. Supporting activities include “Eat for Health” information, and the “Get Moving Vermont” and “Fit & Healthy Kids” physical activity programs. Funding for communities to implement obesity prevention programming targeted towards families with young children was given to 5 communities. For more information, please visit <http://healthvermont.gov/eatforhealth/index.aspx>

Physical activity for youth and adults (2 objectives)

Collaborations between Vermont’s Departments of Health and Education, the Agency of Transportation and the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sport has led to an increase in moderate physical activity in both adults and adolescents. These collaborations include the Governor’s Spring and Fall Daylight Savings Challenges, Girls on Track, SPARK (Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids) and the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program. The Vermont Department of Health Comprehensive Cancer Control program supported several of these initiatives this year. For more information, please visit <http://healthvermont.gov/fitandhealthy.aspx>

Radon detection

The Vermont Department of Health Comprehensive Cancer Control and Radon programs continue to work together to promote free residential radon detection kits in areas where radon testing rates are lowest. This year, free radon kits were promoted in Northeastern and Southwestern Vermont. For more information, please visit <http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/rad/Radon.aspx>

Sun protection promotion

The American Cancer Society has taken the lead in providing information on promoting sun protection for adults and children. The Vermont Department of Health Comprehensive Cancer Control program has supported these efforts by purchasing educational and promotional materials. For more information, please visit http://www.cancer.org/docroot/PED/ped_7.asp

Breastfeeding promotion

The Vermont Department of Health promotes breastfeeding through its twelve District Offices, WIC program, and the La Leche League. Vermont is one of 8 states to meet the Healthy People 2010 Objectives for breastfeeding. Vermont’s private, not-for-profit home health agencies and Visiting Nurse Associations work in collaboration with VDH through the Healthy Babies, Kids & Families Program to provide comprehensive education and support to new families. For more information, please visit <http://healthvermont.gov/family/breastfeed/resources.aspx>

DETECTING NEW CANCERS EARLY

Breast cancer screening

The Vermont Department of Health Ladies First Program, continues to reach out to low-income, under-insured women across Vermont. VTAAC Partners are also reaching out to non-English speaking refugee and ethnic minority women in the Burlington area who have rarely or never been screened for cancers of the breast and cervix. VTAAC has also developed a relationship with the Vermont Coalition of Clinics for the Uninsured to promote screening. For more information, please visit http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/ladies_first.aspx

Cervical cancer screening

In addition to the refugee and minority outreach program, several VTAAC partners sat on the legislative-mandated Cervical Cancer Eradication Task Force that made recommendations to Vermont Department of Health and the legislature for 2007. VTAAC formed a Cervical Cancer Work Group to develop and prioritize strategies related to HPV vaccinations for young women and cervical cancer screening for women of all ages. State funding was secured to allow the Department of Health to provide free HPV vaccinations to females age 12-18, starting in September. For more information, please visit <http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/cancer/documents/SiteSpecificCervical1999-2003052207.pdf>

Colorectal cancer screening

The VTAAC Colon Cancer Work Group worked with the University of Vermont's College of Medicine to conduct a survey of patients addressing barriers to colonoscopies. VTAAC hosted the second statewide colon cancer summit in March 2007 and is evaluating the results of the collaboration with the state's health insurers to encourage healthcare providers and insured Vermonters over 50 to talk about colorectal cancer screening. The Vermont Department of Health Cancer Control and Tobacco Control programs provided funds to the SCORE Health Program working at 20 worksites in Chittenden, Franklin, Rutland and Caledonia counties to promote doctor visits for cancer screening including colon cancer. For more information, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/sfl/>

Prostate cancer screening/informed decision making

To be addressed in 2008.

INCREASING ACCESS TO OPTIMUM CANCER TREATMENT

Multi-modality treatment assessment

To be addressed in 2009.

Transportation service usage

To be addressed in 2008.

Clinical trials participation

The Center for Disease Control and national partners are offering technical assistance in this area. VTAAC identified co-chairs for a workgroup which was convened in March. Under review, a statewide needs assessment based on a model used in New Hampshire. For more information, please visit <http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials>

Insurance coverage

The American Cancer Society and several VTAAC partners worked on the development of the Catamount Health Plan, insuring that cancer screening would be covered in the plan. The Plan was rolled out in October. For more information, please visit <http://www.greenmountaincare.org/>

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CANCER SURVIVORS

Survivorship

A new affiliate, the Vermont Cancer Survivor Network (VCSN), was incorporated as a tax-exempt organization in 2007. In May, VCSN started a pilot of a peer-to-peer support program, "Kindred Connections" which connects cancer patients with others who have had the same experiences. The program was formally kicked off in July in Washington and Orleans Counties. VCSN organized three National Cancer Survivor's Day celebrations in June. In addition the American Cancer Society and other partners promoted and provided support services across Vermont. For more information, please visit <http://www.vcsn.net>

Pain management, Hospice and palliative care availability

The American Cancer Society and several VTAAC partners continued working to implement policies resulting in Vermont's "Pain Report Card" grade of B+. For more information, please visit http://www.cancer.org/docroot/COM/content/div_NE/COM_1_1x_Vermont_Pain_Initiative.asp

Advance directives

In 2006, the Vermont Department of Health launched a statewide electronic Advance Directives Registry. VTAAC and the Vermont Ethics Network are promoting use of this on-line service. To date, over 1400 Vermonters have registered for this free service. For more information, please visit <http://healthvermont.gov/vadr/index.aspx>

COALITION STRUCTURE AND PROMOTION

Infrastructure

Guiding Principles and VTAAC organizational chart were approved and implemented this year. Additional committees are being formed to address membership, resources and advocacy.

Promoting VTAAC and the State Cancer Plan

VTAAC staff presented information at several cancer-related programs and conferences across the state in 2007. Outreach priorities include reaching out to professional organizations and cancer care centers to further promote the coalition, the State Cancer Plan, and various cancer control activities.

The Vermont State Cancer Plan

The State Cancer Plan was revised in June, reflecting more specific goals and objectives. The Vermont Department of Health issued two Status Reports on our progress toward our 2010 objectives in April and October. VTAAC published its first Activities Report in March, this report will be issued annually. VTAAC also held its first Annual Meeting in March. For more information, please visit http://healthvermont.gov/pubs/cancerpubs/state_cancer_plan.aspx

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2008

Prevention

Vermont Department of Health Programs will continue activities in tobacco control, obesity control, fitness promotion, radon detection, sun protection and promotion of breast feeding.

Breast Cancer

VTAAC to work with partners to increase access to screening for low-income and minority women and convene summit of Breast Cancer advocates to assess and coordinate activities around the state

Cervical Cancer

Work Group to assess HPV vaccination program efforts in Vermont. Strategize and prioritize plans to share information on the importance of screening for all women and vaccination for children.. Work with partners to increase access to screening for low-income, minority, and older Vermont women.

Colorectal Cancer

Work Group to assess results of Insurance Collaboration and UVM college of Medicine student projects. Develop strategies to increase access to screening for under-insured Vermonters.

Prostate Cancer

VTAAC to explore interest in starting a work group to address informed decision-making for men with a prostate cancer diagnosis.

Survivorship

Vermont Cancer Survivor Network to assess peer support pilot program and develop plan to expand support programs in Vermont. VTAAC to work with partners to develop strategies for increasing access to information for cancer survivors.

Clinical Trials

Work Group to strategize and prioritize ways to increase participation in clinical trials among cancer patients in Vermont.

Insurance

Work with partners to improve Vermonters access to quality health care.

Sun Protection

Work with partners to institute sun protection programs in Vermont communities.

Pain Management

Work with partners to promote effective pain management for all cancer patients.

Partner recruitment

VTAAC will develop a recruitment plan and work with partners to reach membership diversity goals.

Promote Plan

VTAAC staff to continue working with partners to promote cancer plan and activities.

Review Plan

VTAAC Steering Committee to start process of reviewing Plan and progress.

Partnership

Assess satisfaction and effectiveness of VTAAC partnership by conducting a membership survey and leadership focus group study.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2009 AND 2010

- Expand partnerships
- Evaluate State Cancer Plan/Review Progress toward goals
- Create 2010-2015 Vermont State Cancer Plan
- Plan for implementation of new plan

VERMONTERS ARE TAKING ACTION AGAINST CANCER!

To find out what actions you can take:

Call: David Cranmer, VTAAC coordinator, at 802-872-6303

Email: david.cranmer@cancer.org

Click: www.vtaac.org or www.vermonthealth.gov/cancer