



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2024



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# 2024 Year in Review

The Colorado Cancer Coalition (CCC) is a dynamic statewide collaborative dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer in Colorado. Bringing together key stakeholders, the CCC fosters partnerships that drive progress in cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and survivorship. By providing access to resources, expertise, and opportunities for collaboration, the CCC creates and strengthens efforts to improve outcomes for all Coloradans affected by cancer.

## A Transformational Year: CCC's Transition to Trailhead Institute



In 2024, the CCC transitioned to a program of Trailhead Institute, marking a pivotal step toward long-term sustainability and growth. Previously supported by Trailhead as a fiscal sponsor, the CCC is now fully integrated into the organization, allowing for expanded capacity and enhanced community impact.

Throughout this transition, the CCC's Task Forces and leadership played an instrumental role in driving progress, ensuring that the CCC's mission remained strong amid organizational shifts.

Now fully integrated into Trailhead, the CCC is positioned to enhance its support for communities, strengthen statewide networks, and foster even greater collaboration to reduce the burden of cancer in Colorado. With the unwavering dedication of its Task Forces, leadership, and dedicated partners, the CCC remains committed to advancing equitable, impactful, and sustainable solutions in the fight against cancer.



# More About Us



The Colorado Cancer Coalition (CCC) is dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer in Colorado through education, advocacy, and collaboration. Our **Mission** is to engage, facilitate, expand, and strengthen the statewide network dedicated to improving the lives of all Coloradans affected by cancer. Our **Vision** is to eliminate the burden of cancer in Colorado. To support this mission and vision, the CCC provides:

- **Educational Resources on:**
  - Cancer prevention and risk reduction
  - Cancer screening guidelines
  - Cancer support services
- **Webinars on Key Topics, including:**
  - Early detection of colorectal cancer
  - Cancer care considerations for LGBTQ+ individuals
  - Advance directives and healthcare planning
- **Connections** to Quality of Life Programs for patients and caregivers, ensuring access to supportive services.
- **Access to expert leaders** in cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and survivorship.
- Two Colorado-Specific **E-Newsletters**, delivering the latest updates on cancer research, policies, and initiatives across the state.
- **A Collaborative Network** that brings together individuals and organizations committed to improving cancer outcomes for Coloradans.

The CCC fosters education, networking, and the exchange of best practices within the oncology community, providing a neutral platform for diverse voices to drive meaningful change.

Through collaboration, the CCC supports Coloradans by promoting cancer prevention, early detection, and survivorship, while empowering patients and caregivers to advocate for better cancer outcomes across the state.



# Ways to Get Involved

## Join a Task Force

Collaborate with experts and advocates to advance cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and survivorship.

### **Our Task Forces:**

- Breast Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer
- HPV Vaccination
- Latino Cancer
- Lung Cancer
- Patient Navigation
- Prostate Cancer
- Skin Cancer
- Survivorship & Palliative Care

**Learn more and find a task force that fits your interests: [CCC Task Forces](#)**

## Stay Connected & Help Shape the Future of Cancer Care in Colorado

Subscribe to the CCC Newsletter for the latest cancer-related news, resources, and events: Sign up [here](#)

**Explore the Cancer Resource Map (available in English & Español) to help Coloradans find local support and services.**

[English Resource Map](#)  
[Mapa de Recursos para el Cáncer en Colorado](#)

### **Interested?**

Contact [CCCInfo@trailhead.institute](mailto:CCCInfo@trailhead.institute)

## **Engage Through Events & Sponsorships**

**Attend the Annual Symposium –**  
Connect with oncology professionals and advocates.

**Become a Symposium Sponsor –**  
Support CCC's mission while gaining visibility in the cancer care community.

## **Share & Expand Cancer Support Networks**

Do you run a cancer-related support group? Share it with [CCCinfo@trailhead.institute](mailto:CCCinfo@trailhead.institute) to get it on our event calendar!

## **Support the CCC's Work**

Donate to the Colorado Cancer Fund through the tax check-off program on your Colorado State Income Tax Form, or use our Paypal to donate year round

## **Help develop the next Colorado Cancer Plan (2026-2030) .**

This plan provides a five-year framework to reduce cancer risk, incidence, and mortality in Colorado.

## **Check out our event calendar**

The CCC event calendar shares all the need-to-know events in Colorado

**Your engagement makes a difference—join us in the fight against cancer today!**

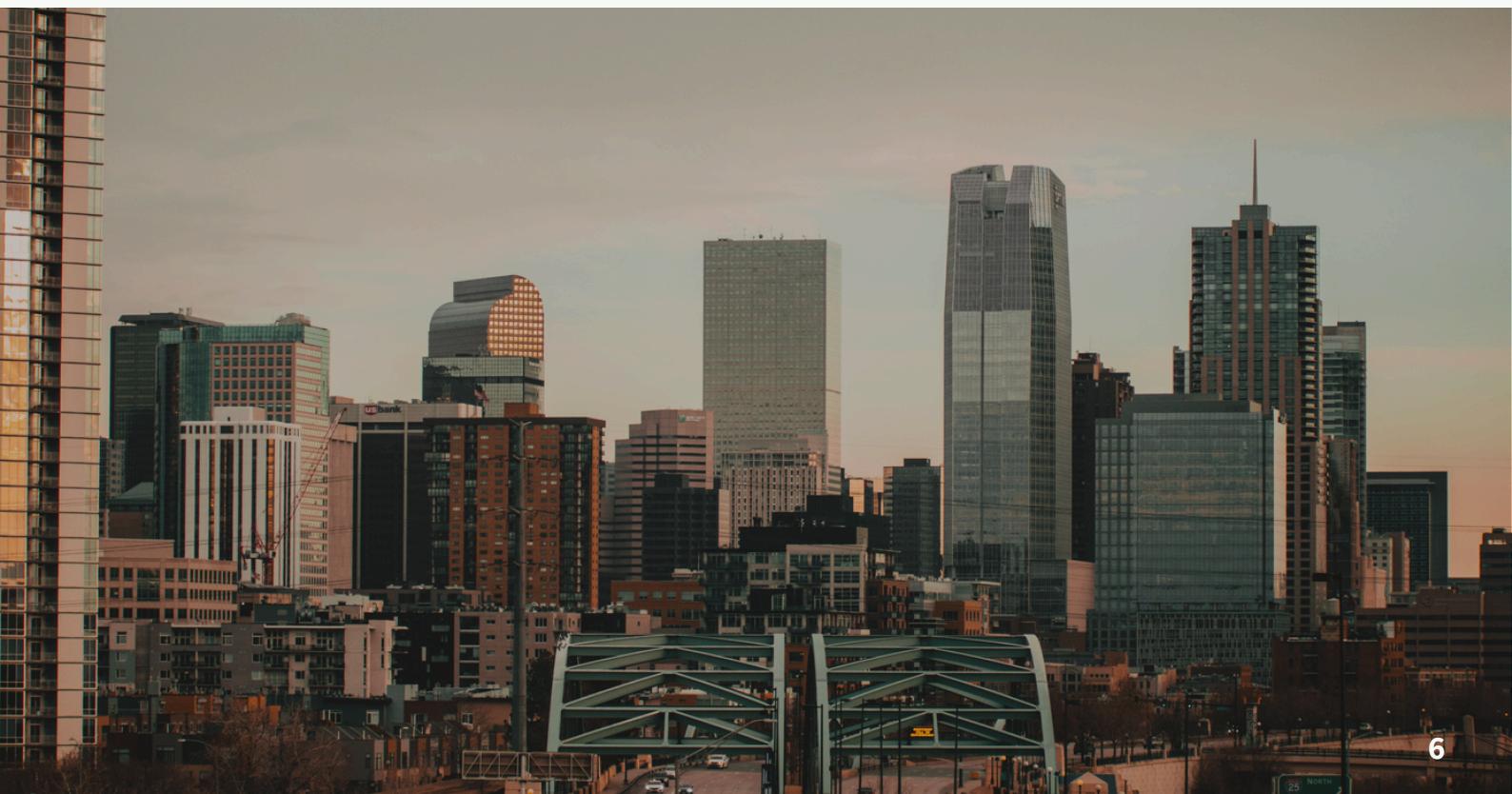
# Colorado Cancer Fund

## Achieving Impact Through the Colorado Cancer Fund

The CCC is funded through contributions made to the Colorado Cancer Fund. Each year, Coloradans have the opportunity to donate to the Colorado Cancer Fund through the Voluntary Contributions Schedule when they file their state income taxes. These contributions serve as the primary source of funding for the CCC.

Funding received through the Colorado Cancer Fund supports cancer education, improves the quality of life for individuals impacted by cancer and caregivers, and supports the CCC in advocating for better cancer outcomes in Colorado.

In December 2024, Trailhead contracted with Barefoot Public Relations to implement a tax check-off campaign in 2025 to raise awareness for donations to the CCC during tax season.



# Coalition Chairs

## Allie Bain and Ian Kahn

In 2023, the Colorado Cancer Coalition underwent a major transition that required steady leadership and a deep commitment to supporting cancer needs in Colorado. Allie Bain and Ian Kahn played key roles in guiding the CCC through this change—ensuring stability, continuity, and a focus on collaboration.

Allie brought years of experience in cancer advocacy, coalition management, and public health partnerships. Her passion is personal—both of her grandfathers passed away from cancer before she was born. From Colleges Against Cancer and Relay for Life to her work with American Cancer Society (ACS), the Iowa Cancer Coalition, and Wyoming's Comprehensive Cancer Program, she's built a career grounded in impact.

Ian Kahn has served as co-chair of the Colorectal Cancer Task Force since 2017, initially joining the Task Force as a volunteer while working with ACS. His career in cancer care began unexpectedly when he applied for that ACS job in Denver, shifting his early aspirations from cancer research to public health advocacy. Since transitioning out of ACS, Ian has remained committed to the Task Force, continuing his leadership to strengthen community outreach and education. Also one of the CCC's Chairs, Ian brings together partners from across Colorado to advance screening, prevention, and equity.

### **Key Achievements in 2024**

- Stabilized the CCC during its transition, ensuring that key initiatives continued despite organizational changes.
- Helped coordinate the CCC Symposium, which exceeded attendance expectations and demonstrated strong community engagement.
- Led statewide screening education roadshows in collaboration with ACS, CDPHE, and a statewide task force, aimed at educating healthcare providers and reducing screening disparities in rural communities.
- Supported a statewide task force in developing educational videos for primary care providers, helping ensure evidence-based screening recommendations reach clinicians across Colorado.

### **Looking Ahead to 2025, Allie and Ian hope to**

- Maintain in-person engagement opportunities while offering hybrid models for broader accessibility.
- Strengthen CCC infrastructure, ensuring task forces and leadership have the resources they need to grow.
- Document and share lessons learned from the transition, providing a roadmap for sustainability and future leadership changes.

Allie and Ian credit CCC members and Task Force chairs for stepping up when it mattered most to keep the work of the CCC moving forward—and remain committed to helping the CCC build a stronger, more connected future for cancer prevention and care in Colorado.

# Breast Cancer Data

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for women in Colorado

## Breast Cancer Cases in Colorado

4,062  
2016

4,662  
2022

Source: COHID

## Breast Cancer Deaths in Colorado

618  
2016

684  
2023

## Uninsured Breast Cancer Screening Rates



29%

of uninsured Coloradans aged 40-49 years have had their mammogram.

## Screening Guideline Rates



55%

of Coloradans aged 40-49 years have met breast cancer screening guidelines



30%

of Uninsured Coloradans aged 50-74 years have had their mammogram



71%

of Coloradans aged 50-75 years have met breast cancer screening guidelines

Source: [VISION](#), 2022

# Colorectal Cancer Data

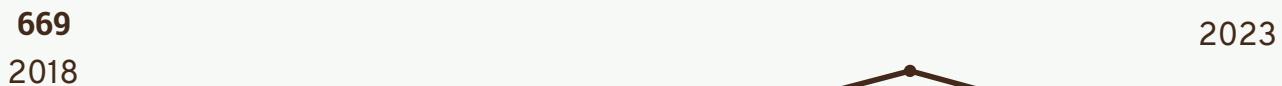
**Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death for people living in Colorado**

## Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Cases in Colorado



Source: COHID

## Colorectal Cancer Deaths in Colorado



## Screening Guideline Rates

Source: [VISION](#), 2022



**66%**

of Coloradans aged 50-75 have met CRC screening guidelines

## Uninsured CRC Screening Rates



**23%**

of uninsured Coloradans aged 50-75 years have met their CRC screening guidelines

Source: BRFSS, 2022

# Colorectal Cancer Task Force

The Colorectal Cancer Task Force, led by Peggy Thomas and Ian Kahn, is dedicated to increasing awareness, expanding access to screenings, and addressing disparities in colorectal cancer burden in Colorado. Their work focuses on education, resource development, and strengthening community partnerships to ensure that individuals across Colorado have access to life-saving screenings.

Peggy Thomas, a former ICU nurse, developed a passion for cancer care while working on a surgical unit. Now serving as the Oncology Program Manager at Penrose Cancer Center, she plays a key role in strengthening community engagement and provider education. She became co-chair two years ago and has been a trusted partner since, working alongside Ian to expand the reach and impact of the Task Force.

## Key Achievements in 2024

- **Awareness Campaign:** Expanded March Awareness campaigns, securing multiple proclamations and organizing blue light campaigns to increase visibility.
- **Primary Care Education:** Developed educational videos in collaboration with ACS, CDPHE Comp Cancer, Peak Vista Community Health Centers, and Catch It In Time for primary care providers and care teams on colorectal cancer screening in a primary care setting.
- **Follow-up Colonoscopy Resource Guide:** Kicked off the creation a resource guide to help uninsured and underinsured individuals access discounted follow-up colonoscopies following a positive stool test. Keep an eye out for this in 2025!
- **General CRC Education:** Hosted educational opportunities on topics including biomarkers and biomarker testing and other States' approaches to CRC screening.

## Looking Ahead to 2025, CRC hopes to

- Continue expanding March Awareness efforts, leveraging state and local partnerships to increase visibility and education.
- Strengthen provider education initiatives, ensuring that primary care physicians are equipped with the latest screening guidelines and best practices.
- Enhance partnerships with other state coalitions, learning from successful models in other regions to improve screening access and patient navigation in Colorado.
- Advocate for increased funding and support for colorectal cancer screening, particularly for underserved populations.

Peggy and Ian remain devoted to reducing barriers to colorectal cancer screening and ensuring that more Coloradans have access to early detection and prevention resources. Their leadership continues to bridge the gap between education, healthcare providers, and community-based cancer prevention efforts.

# Cervical Cancer Data

## Cervical Cancer Cases in Colorado



Source: [COHID](#)

## Cervical Cancer Deaths in Colorado



75%

of Coloradans aged 21-65  
have met Cervical Cancer  
screening guidelines

Source: BRFSS, 2020



65%

of uninsured Coloradans  
aged 21-65 years have met  
Cervical Cancer screening  
guidelines

# Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Data



81%

of 13 - 17 year olds have  
received at least one dose



69%

of 13 - 17 year olds are up to  
date on their vaccination

Source: [TeenVaxView 2023](#)

# HPV Vaccination Task Force

The HPV Vaccination Task Force, led by **Jenni Lansing**, focuses on increasing awareness of HPV-related cancers, promoting vaccination, and expanding access to education and resources. With a background in oral health and cancer prevention, Jenni stepped into the leadership role during a transition period for the CCC, recognizing the need to strengthen connections between dental care, vaccination efforts, and cancer prevention initiatives.

Jenni was drawn to this work due to her growing interest in oral health and the role of the HPV vaccine in preventing oropharyngeal cancers. When the Task Force leadership position became vacant, she saw an opportunity to help build momentum and expand outreach efforts.

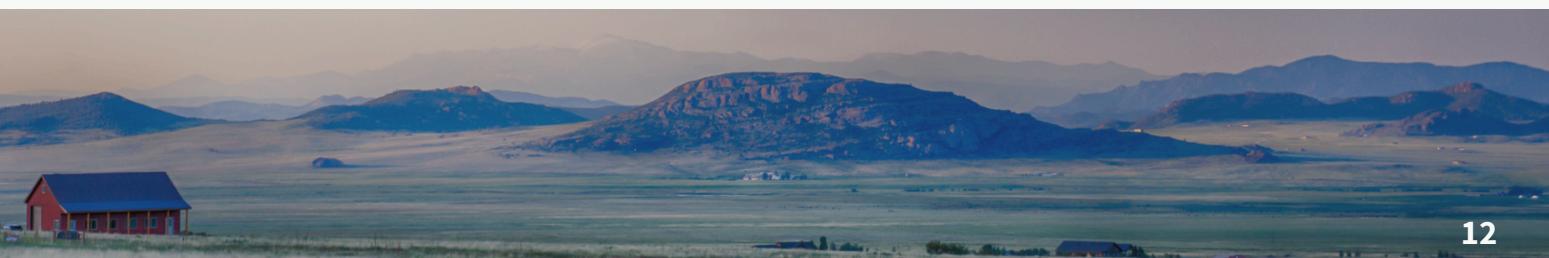
## Key Achievements in 2024

- **Targeting Key Ages:** Maintained focus on HPV vaccination promotion, particularly in key age groups for cancer prevention.
- **Valued Partnerships:** Expanded collaborations with organizations such as Alliance for HPV Free Colorado, Immunize Colorado, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), strengthening partnerships to enhance vaccination efforts.
- **Education and Outreach:** Elevated awareness of HPV-related cancers by supporting education and outreach efforts led by Task Force members.
- **Broad Impact:** Prioritized rural and frontier communities, ensuring that HPV prevention and education efforts reach areas with historically lower vaccination rates.

## Looking Ahead to 2025, the HPV Vaccination Task Force hopes to

- Strengthen leadership and creating more opportunities for impactful, Task Force-driven initiatives through onboarding of new co-chair, **Sindy Gonazales**
- Develop new projects, including potential PSA videos in collaboration with CDPHE, to enhance HPV-related education efforts.
- Strengthen community engagement efforts by creating more opportunities for direct outreach and education.
- Explore additional partnerships to expand the Task Force's reach and impact.

Jenni remains committed to ensuring that HPV-related cancer prevention remains a public health priority. Moving forward, the Task Force will continue to advance education, strengthen partnerships, and advocate for increased vaccination rates to reduce the burden of HPV-associated cancers in Colorado.



# Latino Cancer Task Force

## Cancer is the second leading cause of death for Hispanic and Latino people in the U.S.

Hispanic or Latino people generally face more barriers in accessing comprehensive medical care.

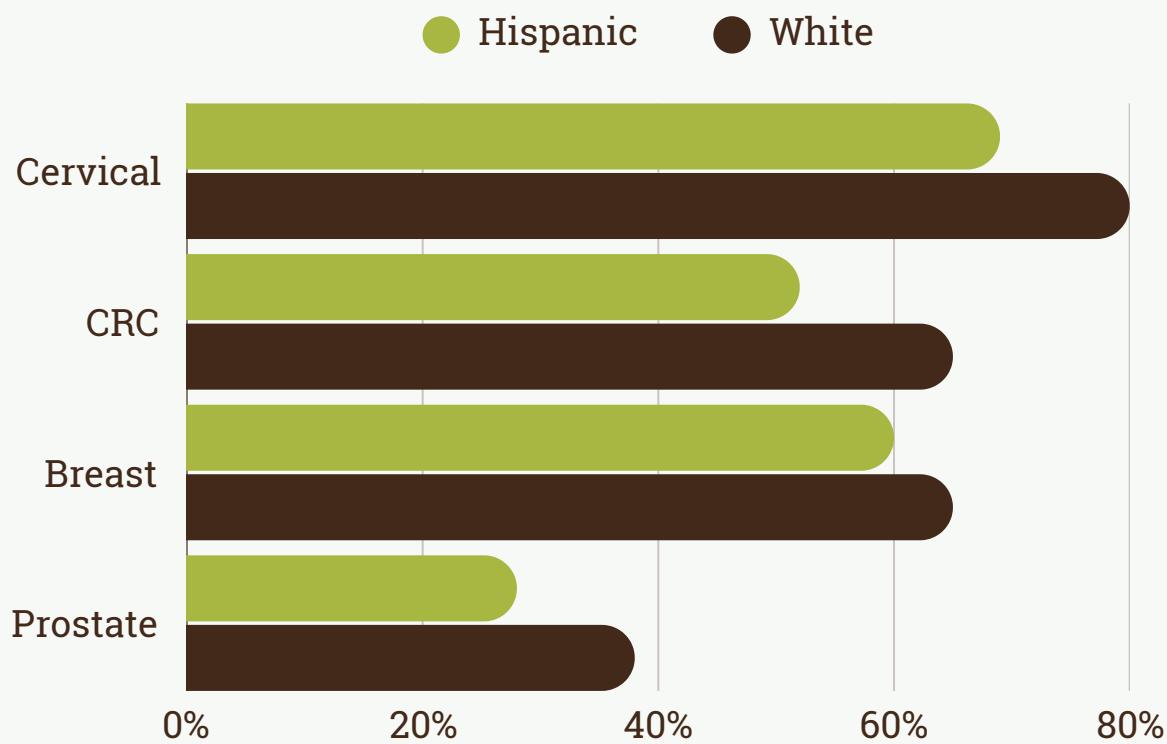
This is influenced by factors such as:

- Language / Cultural Barriers
- Lack of Health Insurance
- Immigration-related fears
- Limited Health Literacy
- Lack of Paid Sick Leave
- Mistrust in Healthcare System



Source - [American Cancer Society](#)

## Screening Rate Disparities - Hispanic People Vs. White People



Source - [American Cancer Society](#)

# Latino Cancer Task Force

The Latino Cancer Task Force (LaCTF), led by **Patricia Galetto, Emily Surico, and Patricia Granados**, is focused on ensuring that Spanish-speaking and Latino communities across Colorado have equitable access to cancer education, screenings, and support services.

This past year, the Task Force made remarkable strides in community engagement, expanding its reach beyond Denver and Aurora to include Fort Collins, Mesa County, Greeley, and Colorado Springs.

Recognizing the unique cultural and linguistic barriers that many Latino individuals face in accessing healthcare, the Task Force has prioritized bilingual outreach and culturally competent care. This has included:

- A hybrid model for support groups, allowing greater participation from all over Colorado.
- A focus on holistic cancer care, integrating medical expertise, mental health support, and physical activity programs for Latino cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers.
- Training bilingual and culturally competent oncology therapists, addressing the gap in Spanish-speaking mental health providers who specialize in oncology care.

## Key Achievements in 2024:

- **Bilingual Support Groups:** In partnership with Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (CCCCP), bilingual support groups saw over 350 registered participants, with an average attendance of 30 individuals per session.
- **Accessible Cancer Education & Support:** Expansion to a hybrid model, making cancer education and support services more accessible across the state.
- **Breaking Barriers:** Development of a colonoscopy initiative to address barriers preventing Spanish-speaking individuals from accessing screenings, in collaboration with UC Health in Fort Collins and local clinics in Colorado Springs.
- **Self-Care Advocacy:** A self-care initiative for Task Force members and coordinators, recognizing the emotional toll of supporting patients and caregivers.

## Looking Ahead to 2025, the LCTF hopes to

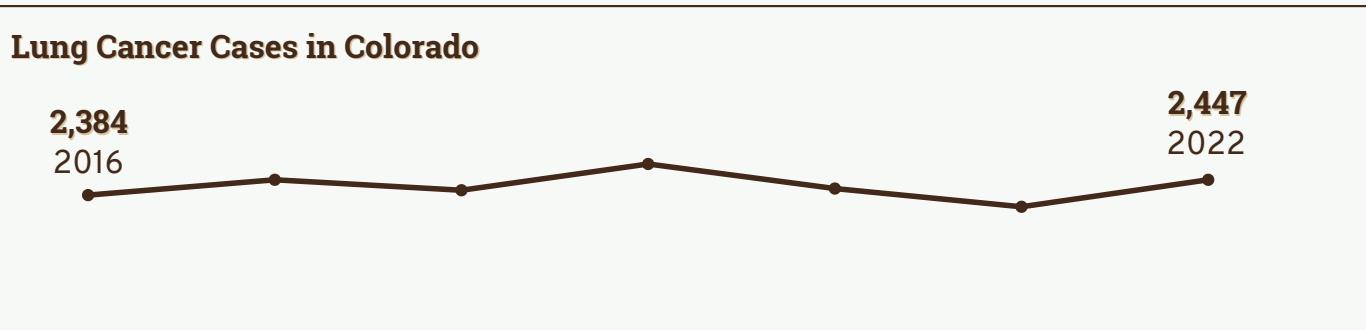
The Latino Cancer Task Force remains deeply committed to empowering Latino communities and ensuring they receive equitable, high-quality cancer care. Moving forward, their goals include:

- Strengthening policy advocacy for improved bilingual services and healthcare access.
- Expanding educational outreach through online support groups and community messaging platforms to reach more individuals.
- Establishing diverse, long-term sustainability funding for cancer support initiatives in Spanish-speaking communities.

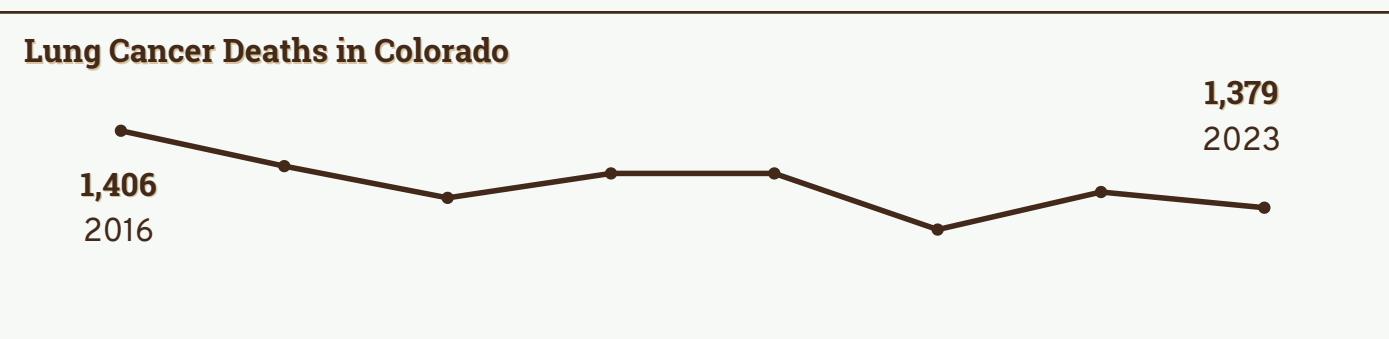
At the heart of the Task Force's success is trust and cultural connection. In centering the voices and needs of Latino cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers, this team is creating lasting change in Colorado's healthcare landscape.

# Lung Cancer Data

**Lung cancer is the #1 cause of cancer deaths in Colorado**



Source: [COHID](#)



**10%**

of Coloradans reported  
being current smokers  
BRFSS 2023



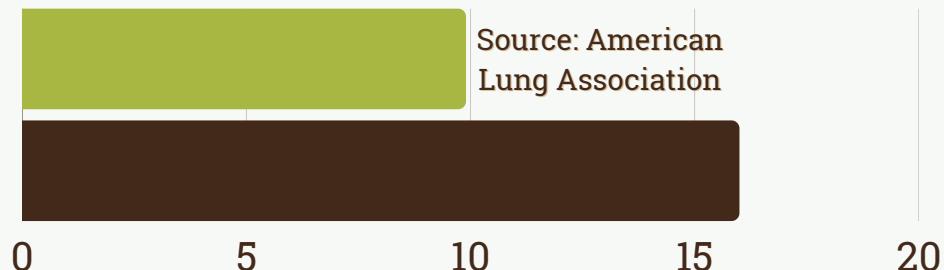
**55%**

of Coloradans had tested  
their homes for radon  
BRFSS 2020

Colorado

Source: American  
Lung Association

United States



**Colorado ranks 48th in the US for screening high-risk individuals.**

For every 10 high-risk individuals screened in Colorado, about 16 are screened nationally

# Lung Cancer Task Force

The Lung Cancer Task Force, led by **Debby Dyer** and **Jamie Studts**, is dedicated to improving early detection, increasing awareness, and ensuring equitable access to lung cancer screenings across Colorado.

Debby Dyer, a retired thoracic radiologist, has spent over 30 years interpreting lung cancer scans, often diagnosing cases at advanced stages when treatment options are limited. Her firsthand experience in seeing late-stage lung cancer diagnoses drives her passion for early detection and increasing screening accessibility.

Jamie Studts, a researcher and behavioral scientist, complements Debby's clinical expertise by focusing on patient engagement, education, and overcoming barriers to screening. Together, they form a powerful duo, balancing scientific knowledge with real-world community engagement.

## Key Achievements in 2024

- **The Road Show Program:** A signature initiative of the Task Force, bringing lung cancer education directly to rural healthcare providers. This program helps local hospitals and clinics improve their screening programs, identify physician champions, and develop infrastructure for early detection.
  - **Connecting with Rural Communities:** With higher smoking rates and fewer screening resources, rural areas are disproportionately affected by lung cancer. With support from the American Cancer Society and CDPHE Comprehensive Cancer, the Task Force held Road Show events in Pueblo, Grand Junction, Montrose, and Greeley engaging with local healthcare professionals to promote best practices and enhance access to lung cancer screening programs.
- **Screening Awareness:** With Colorado's lung cancer screening rate at just 4.5%—far below the national average—the Task Force has worked to increase provider knowledge and encourage at-risk individuals to get screened.

## Expanding Focus: Beyond Screening to Early Detection & Survivorship

As advances in lung cancer treatment improve survival rates, the Task Force is shifting its focus beyond screening to include early detection, proper management of lung nodules, and survivorship care. Many lung cancer survivors now live longer due to advances in treatment, and support systems must be strengthened to meet their needs.

## Looking Ahead to 2025, the Lung Cancer Task Force hopes to

- Continue the Road Show Program, expanding to more rural areas and under-resourced communities.
- Develop structured follow-up plans for incidental lung nodules to improve early detection rates.
- Increase community and provider education efforts to break the stigma around lung cancer and promote screening for high-risk individuals.
- Enhance survivorship programs, ensuring that lung cancer patients receive long-term support and resources.

At the heart of this Task Force's work is a commitment to improving lung cancer outcomes through education, early detection, and strong partnerships. Debby and Jamie's leadership continues to push forward initiatives that save lives—ensuring that more Coloradans have access to the screenings and care they need.

# Prostate Cancer Data

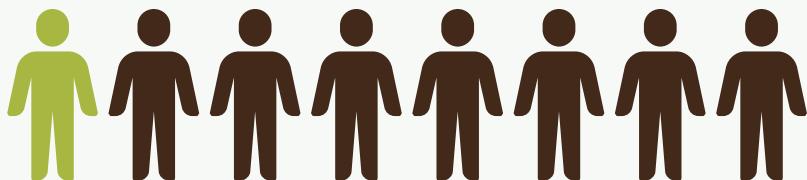
Prostate Cancer is the 2nd leading cause of cancer death for men in Colorado

Prostate Cancer Cases in Colorado



Source: [COHID](#)

Prostate Cancer Deaths in Colorado



1 in 8 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during their lifetime

Source: American Cancer Society

# Prostate Cancer Task Force

The Prostate Cancer Task Force, led by **Renee Savickas and Cara Clements**, is committed to increasing awareness, improving early detection, and ensuring that at-risk populations have access to screenings and education. With 16 years of experience in prostate cancer advocacy through the Prostate Conditions Education Council (PCEC), Renee has dedicated her career to ensuring that men receive the information and resources they need for early diagnosis and treatment.

Renee's leadership is driven by a hands-on approach to community outreach. Recognizing the gaps in prostate cancer awareness in Colorado, she stepped up to revitalize efforts across the state. She is particularly passionate about working with high-risk communities, including African American men and first responders, who often face higher incidence rates and lower screening rates.

## Key Achievements in 2024

- **Community Screenings:** The Task Force partnered with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and the City of Glendale Police to provide prostate cancer screenings at community events, ensuring that first responders, who are often at higher risk due to occupational exposures, receive regular screenings.
- **Partnership with the Center for African-American Health:** Collaborated on education and outreach events to increase awareness and improve early detection in high-risk populations.
- **Health Fair Participation:** Engaged in events like the March 29 Health Fair in Aurora, where screenings and educational materials were provided to community members.

## Looking Ahead to 2025, the Prostate Cancer Task Force hopes to

- Explore opportunities to extend its outreach beyond metro Denver, with a particular focus on El Paso County and other underserved regions.
- Collaborate with Pfizer and additional healthcare organizations to secure resources for screenings and education.
- Recruit more active members and identify a potential co-chair to help lead initiatives.

Renee remains deeply committed to ensuring that early detection remains a priority in Colorado. She is particularly passionate about sharing knowledge and making screenings more accessible, as she has witnessed firsthand how a simple test can save lives. Moving forward, the Task Force will continue to champion prostate cancer awareness, advocate for increased funding, and expand outreach to high-risk communities.



# Patient Navigation Task Force

Patient navigators play an integral role in cancer care by providing personalized support to patients, families, and caregivers. They help navigate healthcare system challenges, ensuring timely access to high-quality medical and psychosocial care from pre-diagnosis through every stage of the cancer journey. Their guidance is essential in reducing barriers, improving health outcomes, and enhancing the overall patient experience.

## Common Patient Barriers Include:



- Lack of transportation
- Lack of care for children or elderly relatives
- Unclear on the importance of screening
- Speaking a different language
- Mistrust of the health care system
- Fear of finding out they have cancer or fear of screening procedures

## Patient Navigators Can Help By:



- Personalizing care
- Providing tailored community resources
- Offering educational support
- Connecting with support networks
- Culturally tailoring support

Source: CU Anschutz



# Patient Navigation Task Force

The Patient Navigation Task Force, led by **Jennaya Colóns**, is devoted to increasing awareness of patient navigation and community health workers, supporting their workforce, and ensuring that patients have access to the resources they need throughout the cancer care continuum.

Jennaya has worked as a physical therapist assistant at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs for nearly a decade. Her experience working with patients who struggled to navigate the healthcare system inspired her to take on a larger role in cancer care. She pursued further education in Allied Health Sciences and earned a master's in Health Education and Promotion. In addition to her work as a clinician and outreach liaison at Penrose Cancer Center, she is the founder and executive director of Highroots Wellness & Consulting, a nonprofit focused on strengthening community-based organizations.

## Key Achievements in 2024

- **Defined Focus Areas:** Established the Task Force's three main focus areas: survivorship, prevention, and workforce development.
- **Cross Task-Force Collaboration:** Strengthened collaboration with other task forces, including engaging with the Colorectal Cancer Task Force and the Survivorship & Palliative Care Task Force to address specific needs.
- **Stakeholder Participation:** Increased participation by engaging a broad range of stakeholders, including IT professionals, community leaders, marketing experts, and healthcare workers.
- **Emphasized a Patient-Centered Approach:** Prioritized the inclusion of individuals with lived experience, such as cancer survivors and caregivers, to ensure the Task Force's work remains patient-centered.

## Looking Ahead to 2025, Patient Navigation hopes to

- Continue expanding outreach and engagement with community health workers and patient navigators.
- Strengthen collaborations with other task forces and healthcare organizations to develop new resources and training opportunities.
- Increase education efforts to raise public awareness about the role and impact of patient navigators in cancer care.
- Support workforce development initiatives to ensure that navigators and community health workers have the resources they need to provide effective care.

Jennaya is passionate about addressing the widespread impact of cancer and believes that tackling the issue requires a community-wide effort. She remains committed to ensuring that patient navigators and community health workers have the support they need to continue making a difference. Jennaya is centered in her unwavering commitment to being intentional with her work, ensuring long term sustainability and success for all Task Force initiatives.



# Skin Cancer Data

## Melanoma Skin Cancer Cases in Colorado



Source: [COHID](#)

## Melanoma Skin Cancer Deaths in Colorado



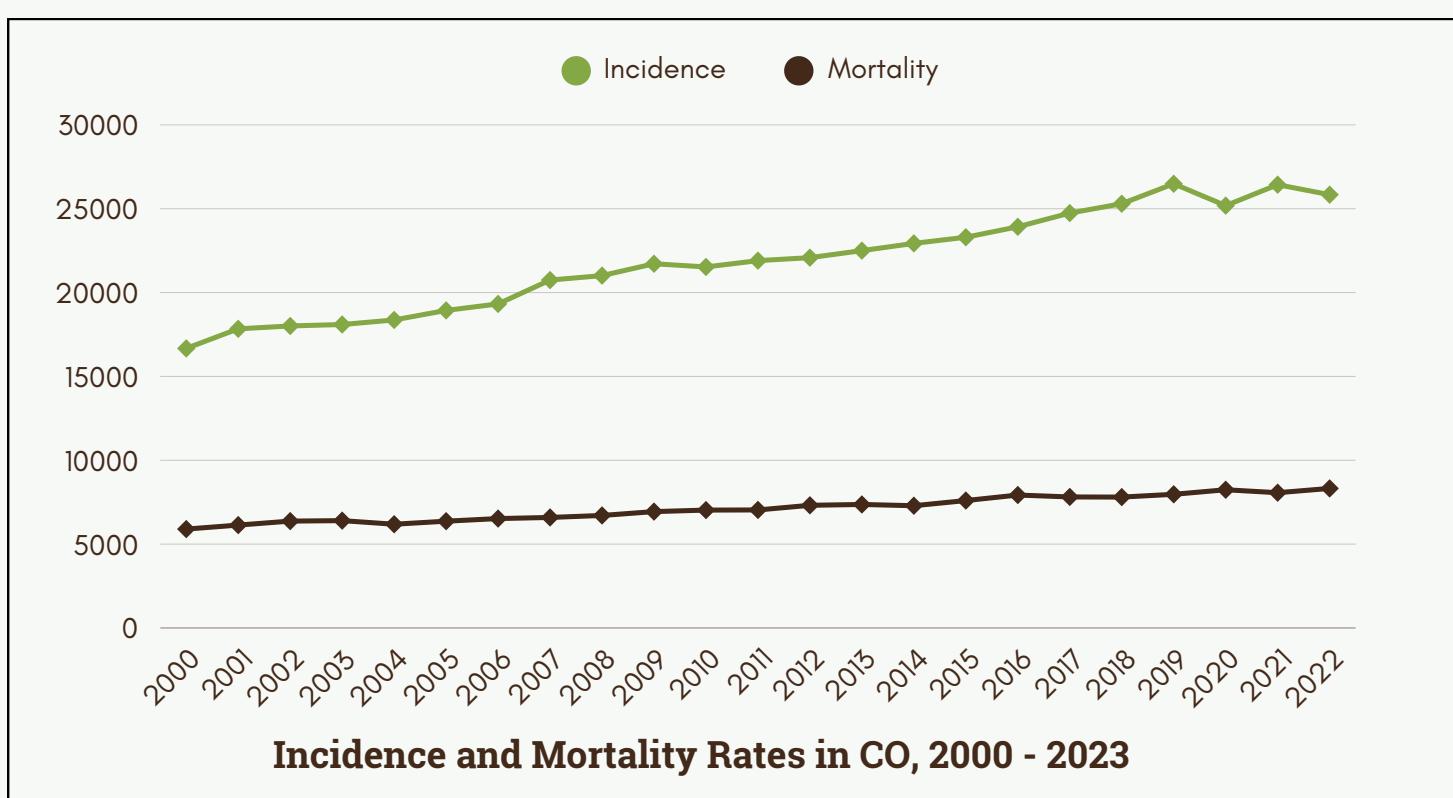
# Skin Cancer Task Force

Given Colorado's high elevation and strong ultraviolet exposure, the Task Force works to increase awareness of sun safety practices, improve access to sun protection resources, and advocate for policy changes that support skin cancer prevention.

In partnership with the Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Skin Cancer Task Force has supported

- An environmental scan to assess the feasibility of implementing shade canopies in public spaces.
- Securing funding and installing free sunscreen dispensers in seven state parks.
- Supporting the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in obtaining a Shade Structure Grant from the American Academy of Dermatology.
- Surveying school administrators and school-based health centers on sun safety policies.
- Partnering with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Department to expand sun safety education and training for park staff.
- Participating in community events such as the National Western Stock Show and Yahweh Health Clinic, providing sun protection education and melanoma screenings.

# Survivorship & Palliative Care



Currently, there's over 368,000 cancer survivors in Colorado

What is your risk?



5 out of 10 men are likely to develop cancer in their lifetime



3 out of 10 women are likely to develop cancer in their lifetime

70% of Coloradans live 5 years after diagnosis

# Survivorship and Palliative Care Task Force

The Survivorship and Palliative Care Task Force (SPCTF) , co-chaired by **Christa Burke** and **Carlin Callaway**, focuses on supporting healthcare providers who work with cancer patients and survivors. Their work centers on survivorship care, advanced care planning, and palliative care education, ensuring that both patients and providers have access to critical resources and information.

Christa has an extensive background in social work, beginning in child protection before transitioning to pediatric oncology, where she worked for eight years. She later moved into adult palliative care and hospice work, bringing a deep understanding of the challenges patients and families face when dealing with cancer. She initially joined the Task Force in 2021 to stay engaged in her field while working part-time and eventually stepped into a leadership role when the previous co-chair left. She is passionate about the universality of end-of-life care and the importance of grief support.

Carlin has spent her entire career in oncology, with the exception of one year in an emergency room in Japan. A former Navy nurse, she brings a structured and strategic approach to leadership. She believes that stability and trust are essential for the CCC's long-term success and is committed to ensuring that the Task Force and the CCC as a whole has a strong foundation before expanding its activities.

## Key Achievements in 2024

- **Advanced Directive Webinars:** Hosted an educational webinar on advanced care planning, covering topics such as advanced directives, MOST forms, and out-of-hospital do-not-resuscitate orders.
- **Survivor's Day Celebration:** Continued the annual Survivor Day event, recognizing the importance of community support for cancer survivors.
- **Timely Task Force Updates - Newsletter:** Maintained and expanded Timely Task Force Updates, ensuring that resources and information remain accessible to providers and the broader community.
- **Survivorship Care Web Series:** Launched an ECHO web series focused on improving survivorship care in rural areas of Colorado and Wyoming with Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

## Looking Ahead to 2025, SPCTF hopes to

- Expand Survivor Day programming to include an additional event in the spring.
- Develop new, tangible resources to support providers working with cancer patients.
- Continue strengthening partnerships with stakeholders to ensure access to high-quality survivorship and palliative care services.
- Maintain structured, sustainable leadership to allow for continued Task Force growth without overextending capacity.

Both Christa and Carlin emphasize the importance of gratitude in sustaining themselves and others in this work. Christa sees grief and survivorship as universal experiences, and Carlin remains focused on building a strong, resilient coalition that can effectively serve those impacted by cancer. Together, they ensure that the Task Force remains a vital resource for providers, patients, and families navigating cancer survivorship and palliative care.

# Interested In Joining One Of Our Task Forces?

Send them an email to learn more!

## Colorectal Cancer

[colorectal@coloradocancercoalition.org](mailto:colorectal@coloradocancercoalition.org)

## Breast Cancer

[breastcancer@coloradocancercoalition.org](mailto:breastcancer@coloradocancercoalition.org)

## HPV

[hpv@coloradocancercoalition.org](mailto:hpv@coloradocancercoalition.org)

## Latino Cancer

[latino@coloradocancercoalition.org](mailto:latino@coloradocancercoalition.org)

## Lung Cancer

[lung@coloradocancercoalition.org](mailto:lung@coloradocancercoalition.org)

## Patient Navigation

[navigation@coloradocancercoalition.org](mailto:navigation@coloradocancercoalition.org)

## Prostate Cancer

[prostate@coloradocancercoalition.org](mailto:prostate@coloradocancercoalition.org)

## Skin Cancer

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## Survivorship & Palliative Care

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# Special Thanks To:

- AdventHealth
- Alliance for HPV Free Colorado
- American Academy of Dermatology
- American Cancer Society (ACS)
- American Lung Association (ALA)
- American Psycho-Oncology Society (APOS)
- Ann and Charles Cancer Center
- Anschutz Well-Being Center
- Banner North Medical Center
- Catch It In Time (CIIT)
- Centennial Area Health Education Center (CAHEC)
- Colorado Academy of Family Physicians (CAFP)
- Colorado Cancer Screening Program (University of Colorado Cancer Center)
- Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN)
- Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (CCCCP)
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC)
- Colon Cancer Coalition
- Common Spirit
- CPCRN Scaling What Works Community of Practice
- Exact Sciences
- Impact Melanoma
- Immunize Colorado
- Intermountain Health
- Live by Living
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- Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge
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- UCHealth
- University of Colorado
- University of Colorado Boulder Community Engagement Design and Research Center (CEDaR)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services / Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (HHS/OASH)
- Visual Network Labs



## About Trailhead

Trailhead serves as the program office for the CCC to build administrative capacity through supporting fundraising, community engagement, leveraging resources, building awareness, and enhancing coordination. Trailhead relies on members and subject matter experts within the CCC, including Task Force Chairs and CDPHE's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program to set the direction of the organization's work.

Trailhead values collaboration, curiosity, inclusion, innovation, and reflection. Trailhead supports gender-inclusive language and recognizes that gender exists beyond a binary. However, due to current limits on data collection, some information in this report is presented using binary gender categories. We acknowledge these limitations and remain committed to supporting more inclusive data practices in the future.



## Looking Ahead



As the CCC begins its first full year as a program of Trailhead Institute, the contributions of the Task Force Chairs remain the foundation of CCC's impact. Their unwavering dedication, creativity, and leadership ensure that cancer prevention, education, and survivor support continue – even during times of transition. CCC also looks forward to continued partnership with CDPHE as we support the creation of the 2026–2030 Colorado Cancer Plan.

Each of these leaders demonstrate what is possible when passionate people come together to drive meaningful change. As we move forward, CCC remains committed to fostering collaboration, strengthening partnerships, and expanding access to life-saving resources for all Coloradans affected by cancer. We will also carry forward the momentum of 2024 by sustaining and growing the programs and projects that were launched or reinvigorated throughout the past year, while exploring new opportunities to meet evolving needs across the state

