

Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Summary

Practice Number: 16003
Submitted By: Division of Oral Health, Illinois Department of Public Health
Submission Date: April 2002
Last Reviewed: January 2018
Last Updated: January 2018

Illinois Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan

The Illinois Cancer Partnership (ICP) has been an on-going supported activity led by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Division of Chronic Disease. Representatives of the public, private, professional and voluntary agencies along with policymakers concerned about cancer in Illinois are invited to participate through the ICP in a process to develop a comprehensive cancer control plan. For this update, as well as for previous cancer control plans, the ICP was charged to provide leadership and a forum for identifying and implementing Illinois' cancer control priorities. The oral health community has been well represented in the partnership. The consistent inclusion of oral cancer into a state comprehensive cancer control plan capitalizes on resources not normally available to a state oral health program. As a result, Illinois has been able to: (1) educate a diverse group of stakeholders on the impact oral cancer in Illinois, (2) develop relationships within the Illinois Cancer Partnership that promote oral cancer as a population concern, (3) build capacity for oral cancer prevention and control activities, 4) provide an updated cancer control plan that is based on current data that include realistic strategies with possible interventions, and (5) leverage federal resources to better understand and support oral cancer prevention activities.

Costs include staff time for a program manager and staff time of the diverse community-based and academic organizations that are part of the cancer partnership that oversees and guide activities.

Lessons Learned:

A comprehensive approach to any cancer control plan needs to include oral cancers. This allows for inclusion of oral health in the coordination of efforts for a public health approach to cancer prevention and control. The increased collaboration between diverse stakeholders in these efforts yields a relevant and well-thought-out intervention. As many state oral health programs are small by fiscal and personnel measures, leveraged resources that expand impact on resident's oral health can additionally serve as a collaboration opportunity for state oral health program.

A major challenge was a change in leadership that occurred during this process that resulted in the re-writing of the cancer plan.

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