

COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PLAN



TIP SHEET

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Comprehensive Cancer Control National Partnership (CCCNP) is a 20+ year collaboration of diverse national organizations working together to build and strengthen Comprehensive Cancer Control (CCC) efforts across the nation.

This Tip Sheet is part of a series offered through the CCCNP to assist CCC programs charged with developing, implementing and evaluating cancer control plans tailored to their state/tribe/territory/jurisdiction. CCC Plans focus coalition efforts on evidence-based interventions (EBIs) that impact cancer prevention and control across the cancer continuum.





How to Use This Tip Sheet

Use When Updating Your CCC Plans

Tip Sheets can be used to help CCC program staff, coalition staff and volunteers update CCC plans. Each tip sheet focuses on a specific topic (e.g., colorectal cancer screening, tobacco control, risk factors for cancer survivors). Follow the steps throughout the Tip Sheet to help guide your process in updating your cancer plan for that specific topic area. Some ideas:

- Incorporate the Tip Sheet into your plan update process – share it with your coalition workgroups and use it to help guide your decisions.
- Identify a lead person to ensure that the Tip Sheet is used by the workgroup or team assigned to update the plan section that addresses each Tip Sheet topic.
- Use the Tip Sheet to check that the topic is appropriately addressed in your plan and that the elements outlined on the next page are covered (objective, data, strategies).
- Use the **worksheet** at the end of this document with your partners to ask and answer critical questions related to the topic as you update your plan.

Use When Implementing Your CCC Plan

Tip sheets can be used while you are implementing the priorities in your plan. The partners and resources listed in each sheet can help ensure your coalition work stays on track and is of high quality. Some ideas:

- Use with coalition leadership and workgroups as they implement the plan, to find resources, data, and to think about partners that could be engaged in implementing specific strategies from the plan.
- Engage coalition members and reactivate workgroups that have been inactive or need a renewed sense of direction.
- Orient new CCC program staff and coalition members or leaders, to help them better understand the importance of the Tip Sheet topics to CCC efforts and to provide access to relevant information and resources.
- Use the Tip Sheets to help with decision making when identifying priorities from the CCC plan.
- Help a newly-formed priority workgroup select a focus area, especially by using the questions at the end of the Tip Sheets.
- Use as a tool to check progress in implementing the plan's priorities, especially focusing on data being collected, EBI's being used and the engagement of key implementation partners.
- Share them with partners (community organizations, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Primary Care Associations, etc.) as a resource about a specific topic including sources of information, data and evidence-based interventions.

Definitions

- **Broadband Internet** – a type of Internet access, such as fiber, cable or wireless, that is faster than traditional dial-up Internet and always active¹
- **Climate change** – long-term shifts in weather patterns and temperatures²
- **Preparedness** – "a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response"³
- **Public health emergency** – a crisis that results in consequences to the public's health, likely from a disease outbreak, natural disaster or humanitarian issue⁴
- **CDC Social Vulnerability Index** – index of 15 indicators associated with vulnerability to climate change to guide local officials on how to support communities before, during and after a disaster or health emergency⁵

CCC Plans and Climate Change

The impact of climate change, including rising sea levels, increasing temperatures, volatile and variable precipitation, and increasing frequency and severity of weather events, are all threats to public health. CCC coalitions can address climate change by including public health emergency preparedness and response in CCC plans, in addition to including evidence-based approaches to reduce the emission of greenhouse gas. Slowing the speed of climate change can reduce its impact on public health, including cancer outcomes, and reduce costly response efforts.⁶



1. Types of broadband connections. Federal Communications Commission. (2014, June 24). Retrieved December 8, 2022, from <https://www.fcc.gov/general/types-broadband-connections>
2. United Nations. (n.d.). What is climate change? United Nations. Retrieved December 8, 2022, from <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>
3. Plan and prepare for disasters. Plan and Prepare for Disasters | Homeland Security. (n.d.). Retrieved December 8, 2022, from <https://www.dhs.gov/plan-and-prepare-disasters>
4. World Health Organization. (n.d.). Who - list of emergencies. World Health Organization. Retrieved December 8, 2022, from <https://www.who.int/emergencies/situations>
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, November 16). CDC/ATSDR social vulnerability index (SVI). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved December 8, 2022, from <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>
6. Crimmins, A., J. Balbus, J. L. Gamble, C.B. Beard, J.E. Bell, D. Dodgen, R.J. Eisen, N. Fann, M. Hawkins, S.C. Herring, L. Jantarasami, D. M. Mills, S. Saha, M. C. Sarofim, J. Trtanj, and L. Ziska, 2016: Executive Summary. The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, 24 pp. <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.7930/J00P0WXS>



Tips for Updating Your CCC Plan

- **Use your current cancer plan as a starting point:** Think of this process as updating the current plan instead of starting a new plan from scratch.
- **Be systematic:** Assign workgroups to review and update certain sections of the plan. Create a process that is common across all workgroups tasked with updating the plan, which should include a standard set of criteria for the inclusion of plan goals, objectives and strategies.
- **Focus workgroups on assessing and updating the core aspects of the plan:** The goals, objectives and strategies.
- **Identify someone to take the lead** on writing the introduction, connecting text, and putting the document together for publication.
- **Use data to determine the focus of the plan:** Which cancers are most prevalent in the population? What subpopulations experience the most disparities?
- **View through a health equity lens:** Be intentional and proactive in keeping health equity issues at the forefront in every step of the cancer plan process – when engaging partners, collecting data, and setting goals. Include representatives from your population of focus in the writing of your cancer plan.

Use these resources to explore more cancer control planning tips and examples:

- [Nine Habits of Successful CCC Coalitions](#)
- [CCC Implementation Building Blocks](#)
- [CDC's CCC Plan Map and Search Tool](#)
- [CDC Cancer Plan Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- [A Practitioner's Guide for Advancing Health Equity](#)

Checklist for Updating Your CCC Plan

- Ensure that your workgroup is familiar with your current cancer plan.**
- Create a systematic process for the workgroup to follow that is intentional about addressing health equity.**
- Use data to focus on the populations with the highest cancer burdens.**
- Focus workgroups on assessing and updating goals, objectives, and strategies.**
- Identify someone to write the introduction and assemble the final document.**

COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PLAN UPDATE TIP SHEET

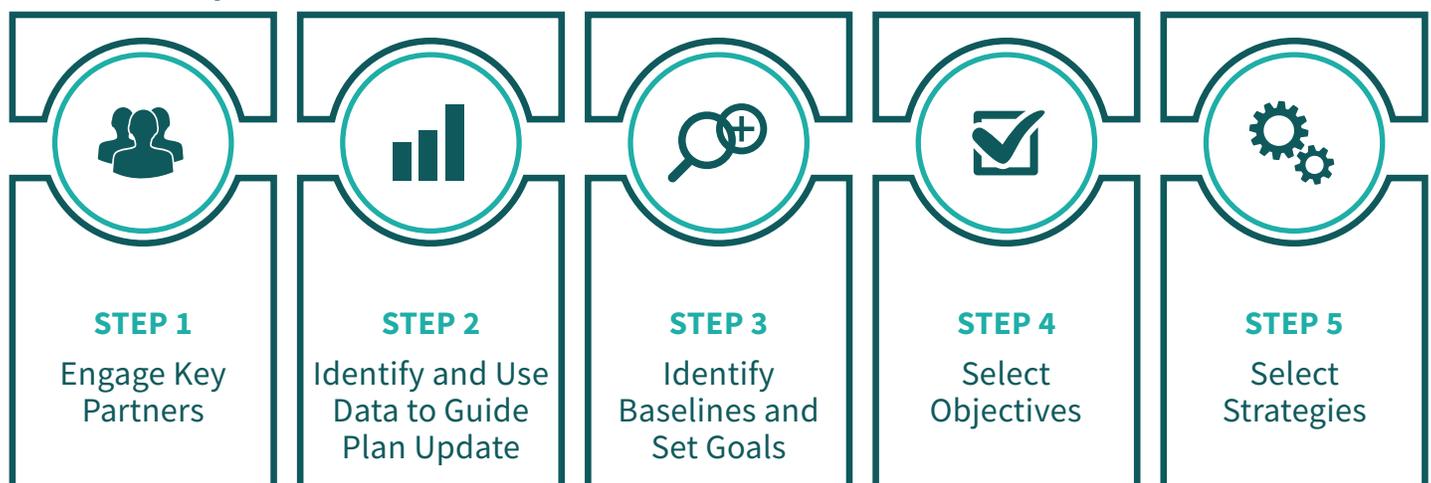
Emergency Preparedness

An emergency with imminent threat to the public’s health is considered a public health emergency.⁷ Public health emergencies include weather events, such as heat waves or hurricanes, uncontrolled spread of communicable disease, explosions, biological or chemical attacks, fires and other natural or man-made disasters. Even though emergency preparedness and response are critical components of the public health system, they are infrequently included in comprehensive cancer control (CCC) plans despite their relevance to cancer and chronic disease outcomes.

There is no need to “re-invent the wheel” if an emergency preparedness plan already exists in your jurisdiction. To have a collaborative and coordinated effort for emergency preparedness, check with your local preparedness program and inquire about their plans, objectives and strategies. Work with your preparedness partners to identify how the CCC plan can complement, add value and leverage the cancer community to improve preparedness efforts.

Why Preparedness is an Important Part of Your CCC Plan

- Public health emergencies are **increasing in frequency and severity**, likely due to several factors, including climate change, an increasingly transient global population and unplanned urbanization.⁸ **A public health emergency can cause significant consequences when the impacted population is more vulnerable given their socioeconomic status, health status, age, housing conditions and more.**
- Cancer risk increases with age, and as cancer treatments improve, the population living with a cancer diagnosis will significantly grow, along with their unique health needs. **As health emergencies grow in frequency and severity, it is critical to decrease their impact across the cancer control continuum and ensure cancer-specific strategies are included in the overall emergency response.**
- Integrating preparedness and response in CCC plans provides guidance during a public health emergency to **ensure cancer risk reduction efforts are prioritized, such as recommended cancer screening to detect cancer when treatment is most effective. Ideally, cancer treatment and survivorship care services should remain available.**



7. Nelson, C., Lurie, N., Wasserman, J., & Zakowski, S. (2007). Conceptualizing and defining public health emergency preparedness. *American journal of public health, 97* Suppl 1(Suppl 1), S9–S11. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2007.114496>

8. Community resilience. ASPR. (n.d.). Retrieved December 8, 2022, from <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/abc/Pages/community-resilience.aspx>



STEP 1 Engage Key Partners

Engage a variety of perspectives when determining how to include emergency preparedness into your cancer plan. Involve organizations critical to the successful implementation of your preparedness-related strategies. These include current members of the cancer coalition, as well as organizations that address preparedness, emergency response and basic and social needs. Be intentional and take additional effort to include representatives from your populations of focus, those at greater risk of poorer outcomes due to a public health emergency. The table below highlights recommended partners and their relevance to preparedness. When engaging key partners, share the cancer coalition's potential value-add to their work.

PARTNER	RELEVANCE TO PREPAREDNESS
CDC-funded Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject matter experts within your jurisdiction to advise how to best integrate emergency preparedness and response in the CCC plan. PHEP programs receive CDC assistance to prepare and respond to health emergencies.
CDC-funded Environmental Public Health Tracking Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject matter experts to assist with the identification and tracking of several health data points, including those that intersect with preparedness and cancer.
Similar Public Health Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to CCC coalitions and programs, many other public health programs, such as tobacco, chronic disease, immunization, and oral health programs, observe declines in hard-earned progress when a public health emergency occurs.
Existing CCC coalition partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health systems, Federally Qualified Health Centers, community partners, public health departments, non-profit organizations, academic institutions and others are essential to strategic conversations with PHEP programs to identify mutual needs, opportunities and benefits.
Partners Addressing Social and Basic Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like CCC, PHEP programs rely on social and basic needs partners to address essential and priority needs during and after an emergency. Cancer prevention and control activities are more effective when a community's critical social and basic needs are met.





STEP 2

Identify and Use Data to Guide Plan Update

Including and tracking data traditionally found in a CCC plan, such as cancer screening utilization, allows CCC coalition members and partners to observe changes in data due to a public health emergency. For example, preliminary cancer screening data during the COVID-19 pandemic indicated a steep decrease in cancer screening, resulting in swift action by public health and health care professionals to return to pre-pandemic screening utilization.

Incorporating public health infrastructure and preparedness data indicators within a cancer plan encourages adequate funding and support for public health. In doing so, CCC coalitions aid in reducing an emergency's severity and preventing the shift of resources for cancer-specific activities to emergency response. Consider these data sources when updating your jurisdiction's cancer plan:

[Ready or Not: Protecting the Public's Health from Disease, Disasters and Bioterrorism](#) is an annual report from Trust for America's Health. The report, published annually since 2003, uses 10 indicators to track the United States' preparedness for public health emergencies. The report includes state-level measures to show states' individual readiness on a three-tier scale.

[County Health Rankings and Roadmaps](#) publishes annual data reports by state and county to support communities as they work on public health improvements. The reports include several data sources compiled in accessible and action-oriented formats. Consider including these indicators from County Health Rankings and Roadmaps when incorporating preparedness in your CCC plan:

- **Broadband internet** provides access to information, resources, and services, and is an especially critical need before, during and after a public health emergency
- **Driving habits**, such as driving alone to work and driving alone for a long commute, can contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, in turn affecting climate change's impact on the frequency and severity of emergencies

CDC's [Environmental Public Health Tracking Network](#) monitors several environmental and health data points to address environmental and health issues throughout the country. CDC funds 33 jurisdictions to develop an Environmental Public Health Tracking Program for local data monitoring. When adding preparedness concepts in the CCC plan, explore:

- **CDC Social Vulnerability Index** uses 15 social factors collected by the U.S. Census to indirectly determine a census tract's vulnerability to severe outcomes, particularly due to an emergency
- **Internet access** identifies geographic locations that could benefit from expanded internet access and should be prioritized when planning for and responding to an emergency
- **Medical infrastructure** indicates areas with vulnerable medical infrastructures and identify high-need areas for public health resources and activity in an emergency



STEP 3 Identify Baselines and Set Goals

The questions in the worksheet at the end of this document can guide you through the data gathering, decision making, and priority setting processes. Think about the following as you work through the questions:

- What data should we include? Be sure to gather partner input and review regional and national objectives for emergency preparedness, often found in jurisdiction-wide health improvement plans.
- Using data, identify populations of focus to prioritize efforts and resources.
- Consult with key partners, such as the [Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program](#) and [Environmental Public Health Tracking Program](#), to align baselines and goals. Include chronic disease and cancer risk programs to ensure alignment across all plans and programs.



STEP 4 Select Objectives

Begin by reviewing national objectives related to emergency preparedness and align the CCC plan with national goals, such as Healthy People 2030. Work with partners to select objectives that broadly address preparedness and cancer. Include equity-centered objectives to ensure populations with greatest need receive the necessary resources and effort.

Examples of **Healthy People 2030 objectives** to tailor and include as you seek to incorporate preparedness in your CCC plan can include:



- [By 2030, reduce the proportion of people who cannot get medical attention when they need it from 8.7% to 3.5%](#)
- [By 2030, increase trips to work made by mass transit from 5% to 5.3%](#)
- [By 2030, increase the proportion of adults with broadband internet from 41.5% to 60.8%](#)
- [By 2030, reduce the proportion of people living in poverty from 11.8% to 8.0%](#)

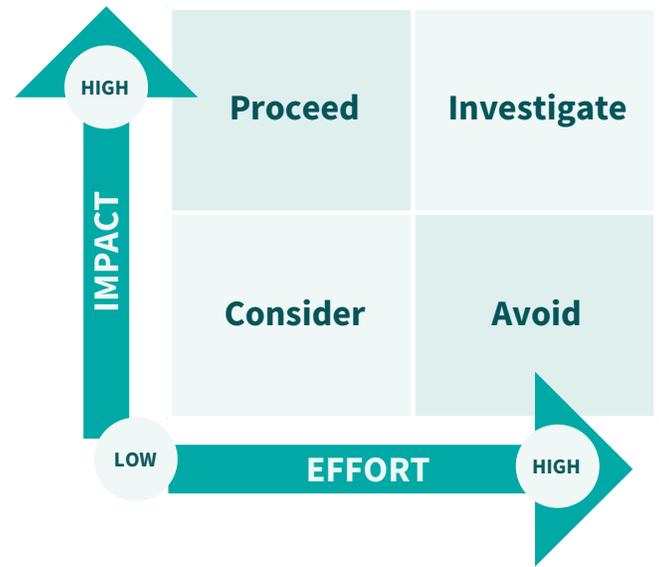


STEP 5 Select Strategies

Collaborate with partners when selecting strategies to ensure they align, leverage, enhance and/or expand current efforts. When determining which strategies to include, work with partners to map strategies on an action priority matrix to identify the effort and potential impact of each.

Prior to including new strategies in your CCC plan, review existing strategies and how they might support emergency preparedness efforts in addition to cancer prevention and control efforts. Strategies to improve preparedness are listed below.

Strategies with an asterisk (*) are commonly found in CCC plans.



Strategies to Address Poverty

- Increase access to safety net programs, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid, Medicare, unemployment benefits, WIC (Women, Infants and Children), and the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.*
- Educate organizations and decision-makers on policies to provide a living wage to improve public health. Adopt a “health in all policies” approach to ensure the health and well-being of the public are considered in all areas of social, economic, and health policies.*

Strategies to Increase Community Resiliency

- Increase community participation in public health program planning and community leader partnerships with all levels of government.*
- Create and test approaches to rapidly restore services, including social networks.
- Develop and test culturally relevant tools to support communities’ assessments of their risk to health emergencies and approaches to address their risks.
- Strategies to increase Internet access.
- Support the development of a broadband access task force to engage partners and identify solutions to increase high-speed Internet access.
- Leverage other policy priorities, such as transportation and economic development, to incorporate additional funding for broadband expansion.

Strategies to Increase Access to Health Care

- Expand Medicaid in non-expansion states and territories.*
- Train and employ community health workers.*
- Participate in the Nurse Licensure Compact to allow nurses to practice in other states without requiring an additional license.
- Build upon telehealth advancements made during COVID-19 by increasing decision-maker knowledge of telehealth policies to increase access to care.

Strategies to Improve Medical Infrastructure

- Modernize data systems to increase inter-operability across health care and public health entities to identify high-needs individuals during an emergency event. Examples of existing data systems including immunization and cancer registries. Or establish new systems such as a cancer screening registry.*
- Incentivize hospitals and clinics to provide care in high-social-needs areas.
- Prioritize communities with hospitals and clinics in flood zones to create plans that minimize the disruption of cancer early detection, care and support services during and after a flood.

Strategies to Slow and Address Climate Change

- Increase the number of coalition member organizations committed to using renewable energy.
- Increase the number of coalition members with a plan to maintain services during and after a natural disaster.
- Increase the public's awareness of climate change's impact on public health.

Resources

[What Works for Health](#)

[The Community Guide](#)

[Healthy People 2030](#)

[National Environmental Public Health Tracking](#)

[CDC's Climate and Health Program](#)

[NIH Climate Change and Health Initiative](#)

Worksheet: Questions to Ask and Answer

Use this worksheet to help you and your cancer control to identify gaps, opportunities, and challenges that should be reflected in your cancer plan objectives and strategies. Record your answers and use the information to help inform your selection of objectives and strategies for your updated plan.

1. What public health emergency organizations and programs already exist in our jurisdiction?

- Are they part of our coalition and discussions to update the CCC plan?

- If not, how can we involve them in our CCC plan update process?

2. Are there existing preparedness and response plans or other relevant efforts in our jurisdiction?

- If yes, how do we want to use and reference existing plans in our CCC plan? Note: How you answer this question will affect how much you need to analyze data and identify objectives and strategies. It is strongly suggested not to “re-invent the wheel” if an up-to-date preparedness plan already exists for your state.

3. Based on the data, are there any additional objectives that should be added to the CCC plan that are not included in the existing preparedness plan?

- If so, what primary objectives do we want to set given our analysis of this data?

4. What populations and communities are particularly vulnerable to a public health emergency?

- Are these populations and communities engaged in the CCC plan discussions to identify objectives? If not, how can we engage them?

- Are there any value-added secondary objectives not in the preparedness plan that we want to identify given our analysis of this data?

5. What conditions in our environment (in which we are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age) are affecting our communities' health?

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- Are people most affected engaged in planning the solutions?

- What objectives and strategies should we include to address these “upstream” social determinants of health?

6. How can the CCC plan complement/add value and leverage the cancer voice for existing efforts?

7. What existing cancer-related services, networks, or programs could we leverage to help achieve our preparedness objectives?

- What strategies should we select given the answers to this question?

8. What preparedness policies or systems changes do we want to advocate for or promote?

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- What strategies should we select given the answers to this question?

9. What partners can we engage to support our preparedness efforts over time? Do we have existing connections with them? How can we engage these partners? Can we identify a champion within these partners? Why will they want to be involved? What is the “value add” for them?

- Are the populations of focus engaged in planning and implementing these changes?

- What strategies should we select given the answers to these questions?

10. What gets measured is what gets done: How can we best track our efforts in preparedness? How do we know we are making progress along the way?

- Are there strategies we should select based on the answers to these questions?

11. What results do we share with policymakers and how do we effectively communicate them to integrate cancer control and preparedness efforts?

- Are there strategies we should select based on the answers to this question?

12. How will the strategies we selected elevate health outcomes for populations of focus and/or have historically experienced health outcome disparities?