

# INTRODUCTION LETTER

Dear Hoosiers,

The *Indiana Cancer Facts and Figures 2015* is the fourth iteration of our state's only comprehensive report on the burden of cancer. This report provides the most recent and accurate data available for the state of Indiana, covering a wide variety of current cancer issues and trends, including cancer incidence, mortality, and survival statistics as well as information on decreasing the risk of cancer, cancer symptoms, risk factors, early detection, and treatment.

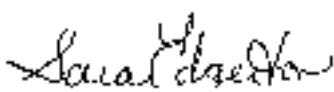
The Indiana Cancer Consortium (ICC) is proud to promote the message that this report sends from the Indiana cancer community to Hoosiers across the state. The *Indiana Cancer Facts and Figures 2015* perfectly demonstrates the willingness and the passion that Hoosiers have to work together to improve and overcome our state's cancer burden. We know that we can only make a real difference through collective effort and action.

The size and scope of this report becomes that much more admirable when considering that nearly 100 percent of it is completed voluntarily by ICC members. As such, we trust that the collaborative efforts of our contributing partners will benefit all Indiana residents and serve as a rallying call for us to move forward as a single cancer control alliance.

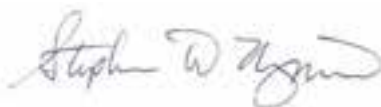
From the ICC, we thank the American Cancer Society and the Indiana State Department of Health for their organizational partnership in the development of this report. We also thank all those who helped make this report a reality. The time, the resources, and the expertise shared will establish this report as a leading tool for Indiana's cancer prevention and control efforts. Furthermore, we also recognize the value of all those who will now take this report and act according to its findings.

Finally, to all Indiana residents, the ICC promises to continue convening partners, identifying cancer burdens, and developing and implementing evidence-based interventions that will improve the health of all citizens of Indiana.

Sincerely,



Sara Edgerton  
Co-Chair  
Indiana Cancer Consortium



Steve Tharp, M.D.  
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# COLLABORATING TO CONQUER CANCER

The Comprehensive Cancer Control National Partnership is a movement of states, tribes, territories, US Pacific Island Jurisdictions, and local communities working together to reduce the burden of cancer for all people. In the Hoosier state, the Indiana Cancer Consortium (ICC) serves as that comprehensive cancer control coalition, responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating a statewide cancer control plan, which address cancer from prevention through palliation.

*Collaborating to Conquer Cancer* is the underlying philosophy, vision, and model that directs the ICC, as well as our partners across the nation. In Indiana, we are proud to say that *Collaborating to Conquer Cancer* represents the more than 200 organizational and individual members of the ICC who work to bring together Indiana's cancer community, identify disease challenges facing both state and local communities, and develop evidence-based solutions that make a difference.

The ICC membership plans, contributes, and takes advantage of a full range of free services — including professional trainings, educational publications, mini-grants, and guidance. By listening to our partners, public health and medical experts, and other interested Hoosiers, we continually evolve to better address the gaps in cancer prevention and control across the state. The larger our coalition grows, the bigger impact we have. Become a member at [IndianaCancer.org](http://IndianaCancer.org).

## The Plan

The collaborative process is best reflected through the development and implementation of Indiana's current cancer control plan, our roadmap to coordinate cancer control efforts. The plan is comprised of six focus areas, including primary prevention, early detection, treatment, quality of life, data, and advocacy. Within those six areas, experts in the fields of public health, cancer research, and treatment identified the most important activities that, when implemented, can reduce cancer in Indiana. Day by day, as more partners engage in strategies from this plan, extraordinary accomplishments are made. *This* is the power of our unique cancer control alliance. Together we are stronger than cancer.

## Key Activities

- Lead in the ongoing development, implementation, and evaluation of an Indiana-focused comprehensive cancer control plan that addresses cancer across the continuum.
- Provide guidance to members on current issues in cancer advocacy, research, detection, and treatment.
- Provide a forum for a multi-sectored and diverse membership to discuss the cancer issues challenging Indiana.
- Strengthen communication, resource sharing, and collaboration in the cancer community, and reduce duplication and inefficiency.
- Educate Indiana health workers and cancer advocates on current evidence-based strategies and best practices.
- Support and inform Indiana on policy, system, and environmental changes that decrease risk factors which impact Hoosier communities.

## Indiana Cancer Facts and Figures 2015

The *Indiana Cancer Facts and Figures 2015* includes the most up-to-date cancer information available and identifies current cancer trends and their potential impact on Indiana residents. This report significantly helps the ICC measure Indiana's progress toward meeting the goals and objectives outlined in the *Indiana Cancer Control Plan*. This publication is an exemplary application of collaboration in public health. We hope that the sharing of knowledge, resources, and expertise among the many participating organizations to produce this tool will inspire organizations across the state to tackle the cancer burden together.

