



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
CANCER CENTER
Bench to Community



Center for Research on
Women and Gender

NEWSLETTER

*Illinois Rural Cancer
Assessment*

February 2018 | Issue #11



*Future City, Illinois – Near Cairo. By
Ilmo Joe / Flickr Creative Commons*

Greetings from the Illinois Rural Cancer Assessment team! We hope you enjoy the new and improved Illinois Rural Cancer Survivor and Caregiver assessment newsletter. If you have any suggestions, please [CONTACT](#) us!

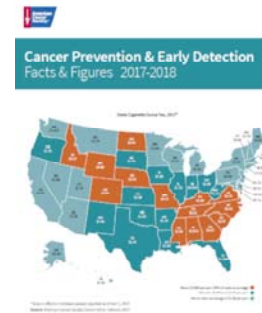
NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION MONTH

February is National Cancer Prevention Month, with a focus on promoting cancer screenings, vaccinations, and healthy behaviors to reduce cancer.

#CancerPrevention

- One study found rural residents overall were less likely than urban to obtain breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screenings. Additionally, **African American women were more likely than White women to be screened for breast and cervical cancer, but the odds of being screened decreased as rurality increased.**¹

Check out the American Cancer Society's publication [Cancer Prevention & Early Detection Facts & Figures 2017-2018](#), a resource for cancer prevention and early detection advocates that includes recent statistics and strategies.



FEATURED PARTNER



KENDALL COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Kendall County Health Department (KCHD) endeavors to promote cancer awareness and inspire preventive behavior choices across the entire community.

- **Colorectal Cancer**
 - Educate their community on the risk and protective factors of colorectal cancer
 - Offer easy access to the Fecal Immunochemical (FIT) Test
- **Radon Education**
 - Provide education on indoor radon gas exposure, and how to test for and mitigate it
 - Provide low-cost and easy-to-use indoor radon test kits
- **Skin Cancer**
 - Educate the community on the risk of unprotected exposures to the sun's powerful ultraviolet rays
- **Tobacco Education**
 - Raise community awareness on risk of tobacco use
 - Promote sound local policy to reduce secondhand smoke exposure
 - Provide behavioral supports to quit or refrain from tobacco use

Raising community awareness and inspiring healthful behaviors begins with reaching residents wherever they may be. In doing so, the KCHD implements a broad and diverse outreach strategy that includes the use of

mainstream and social media, a monthly electronic newsletter, 24/7 website access, radio and television appearances, in-house seminars, and staff presentations in local community and clinical settings. The KCHD also spreads the word to and through their governance, community, and local public health system partners. KCHD's comprehensive approach, delivered in a culturally-equitable manner, ensures that their messages and services are easily accessible to a diverse Kendall County community.



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[CLICK HERE](#) to talk to us about being a featured partner!

RESEARCH UPDATES

WAVE 2 RECRUITMENT

We are preparing to launch our Wave 2 recruitment phase. We will focus on recruiting survey respondents who are:

- **Racial/ethnic minority survivors and caregivers**
- **Male survivors and caregivers of any race/ethnicity**

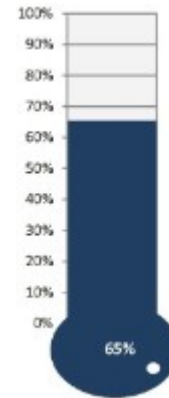


To date, these groups have had low representation. By increasing participation, we will be able to make comparisons across groups and to identify disparities that may exist.

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit our research website for flyers.

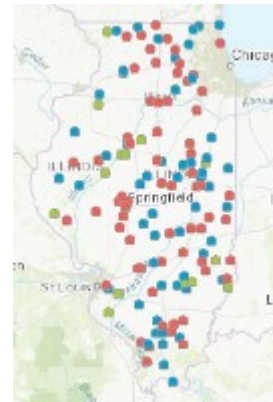
ENROLLMENT

- To date, we have enrolled 196 participants. **Only 4 more to 200!**
- Our goal is to have 300 respondents, and we are currently 65% to our recruitment goal.



GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

- To see where respondents are from, check out the map to the right.
- To date **92 SURVIVORS**, **78 CAREGIVERS**, and **26 CANCER SURVIVORS + CAREGIVERS** across the state have completed the assessment.



The map is also available
online: <http://arcg.is/0jWXWK>

ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT

The Illinois Rural Cancer Assessment is being conducted by the [University of Illinois Cancer Center](#) and the [Center for Research on Women and Gender](#). The purpose of this assessment is to:

- Characterize disparities in self-reported physical functioning, co-morbidities, and cancer recurrence among survivors.
- Characterize disparities in mental health among survivors and caregivers.
- Characterize disparities in self-reported cancer screening and overall healthcare utilization among survivors and caregivers.

STUDY TEAM

DR. YAMILE MOLINA

[Yamile Molina](#), PhD, MPH, MS is an Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences at the [UIC School of Public Health](#), an Academic Partner at the [University of Illinois Cancer Center](#) and a Faculty Affiliate at the [Center for Research on Women and Gender](#). Dr. Molina is the Principal Investigator of a Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Health to study psychosocial facilitators to breast cancer screenings among Latinas in order to reduce health disparities.



DR. KARRIEM WATSON

[Kariem Watson](#), DHSc, MS, MPH is the Director of Community Engaged Research and Implementation Science at the [University of Illinois Cancer Center](#). As a community engaged research scholar with over 15 years experience, his work has resulted in the creation of community based cancer screening, prevention and navigation programs for breast, lung, colorectal, cervical and prostate cancer. Dr. Watson is a Co-Investigator on a National Cancer Institute funded grant to increase the number of faculty and students from underserved communities who engage in cancer disparities research.



LESLIE CARNAHAN

[Leslie Carnahan](#), MPH is a Research Specialist at the [Center for Research on Women and Gender](#) at UIC. For the past 6 years, she has worked with community-based organizations to conduct health promotion research with rural populations. Her PhD dissertation research at the the UIC [School of Public Health](#) is focusing on determinants of colorectal cancer screening among rural populations.



REFERENCES

1. Bennett KJ, Probst JC, Bellinger JD. "Receipt of cancer screening services: Surprising results for some rural minorities." *Journal Rural Health* 28 (2012): 63-72.
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