

About the Program

The Socioeconomic Status Related Cancer Disparities Program (SESRC) is a national strategy to build the capacity of community cancer serving organizations to address health disparities in cancer through the adaptation and utilization of evidence-based cancer prevention and control efforts for socioeconomically disadvantaged populations.



Why Our Services Are Needed

Irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations are disproportionately affected by cancer and have lower survival rates than their more affluent counterparts (Singh et al., 2003). Moreover, reports consistently show that poor people:

- Are selectively targeted by marketing strategies of tobacco companies, have limited access to fresh foods and good nutrition, and are provided fewer opportunities for safe recreational physical activity
- Lack access to healthcare and are more likely to die of cancer
- Experience a sense of fatalism regarding cancer
- Find cancer education and outreach efforts insensitive to their needs

To eliminate cancer disparities, it is important to focus on those suffering a heavier burden of cancer.

“Poverty is a carcinogen.”
 Dr. Samuel Broder,
 former Director of the National Cancer Institute

I. Professional Development

We offer a 6-to-7 hour professional development training workshop that provides participants with strategies for acting on and advocating for organizational change that leads to the initiation or improvement of cancer prevention and control efforts targeting socioeconomically disadvantaged populations.

The workshop is designed to help participants:

- Increase awareness of social, economic, and environmental conditions underlying cancer disparities
- Gain knowledge of current evidence-based strategies to address SES-related cancer disparities
- Identify steps their organization can take to improve cancer programs and services for socioeconomically disadvantaged populations

II. Individualized Technical Assistance

While staff at community cancer serving organizations across the country work diligently to reduce health disparities in cancer, SESRC behavioral and social science volunteers (BSSVs) can be effective allies in tackling the behavioral, social, economic, cultural, and environmental barriers that underlie these disparities.

SESRC BSSVs assist organizations to:

- Translate research into practice
- Adapt & tailor evidence-/practice-based interventions
- Document and communicate successes to inform policy and advocacy efforts
- Acquire resources to sustain effective efforts

Fact: Psychosocial problems created/exacerbated by cancer like depression, disruptions in work & family life, & a lack of transportation threaten patients’ return to health (Adler & Page, 2008).

III. National Translation & Dissemination Network (NTDN)

Comprised of BSSVs and participating community cancer serving organizations, the NTDN is SESRC’s home on the web. It provides members with access to customized tools in translating evidenced-based cancer prevention and control activities to their local communities, including over 7,000 pages of information, adaptable project tools, various distance learning training modalities, discussion boards, chat rooms, shared calendars, and web logs.

The customized network allows members to:

- Share strategies, lessons learned, and best practices
- Utilize resources needed to sustain services and programs
- Seek expert guidance
- Access evaluation and reporting tools



Fact: For breast, prostate, & colorectal cancers, low-SES individuals are more likely to be diagnosed at a more advanced stage & to receive less aggressive treatment (Byers et al., 2008).

Your Participation in SESRC Means:

1. Participating in an SESRC Professional Development Training Workshop
2. Developing a strategic action plan to initiate or improve services for socioeconomically disadvantaged populations
3. Successfully implementing your action plan with individualized technical assistance from a BSSV
4. Joining the National Translation & Dissemination Network (NTDN) to access, utilize, & share resources, lessons learned, & best practices
5. Documenting and communicating successes to inform policy and advocacy efforts

Results In:

Improved health outcomes & reduced cancer disparities in your community

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**American Psychological Association
 (APA)**

APA is the largest scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States and is the world's largest association of psychologists. APA's membership includes more than 148,000 clinicians, researchers, educators, consultants, and students. APA's mission is to advance the creation, communication, and application of psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve people's lives.

Helping You Eliminate
**Socioeconomic Related
 Cancer Disparities**



National in Scope — Local in Impact

