



Year in Review 2022-2023



An aerial photograph of a river valley. A winding river flows through a green, forested landscape. In the foreground, a large, flat-topped rock formation (a butte) rises from a dense forest. The background shows rolling hills and more of the river valley. The entire image is framed by a thick green border.

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Introduction

The Wyoming Cancer Program (WCP) is excited to publish our second Year in Review. The WCP remains committed to reducing the burden of cancer in Wyoming. Throughout the last year, the program has been busy implementing several quality improvement projects to help the programs perform better so that we can achieve our goals more effectively.

We are continually thankful for the strong passionate partners that Wyoming has working on cancer prevention, early detection, and survivorship support. We know that by working together we can accomplish so much.

Star Jones, CPM
Unit Manager
Cancer and Chronic Disease Prevention

At a Glance

The Wyoming Breast & Cervical, and Colorectal Cancer Screening Programs are funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Wyoming. These programs cover the cost of preventive cancer screenings for eligible Wyoming residents who would not otherwise be able to afford a cancer screening. The screening program also provides patient navigation for ineligible applicants to assist them with finding the resources needed to complete a cancer screening. Additionally, the program works with healthcare providers statewide on quality improvement projects that are geared toward increasing cancer screening rates in the clinic setting.

The Comprehensive Cancer Control Program is funded by the CDC and Tobacco Settlement Funds. This program focuses on implementation of evidence-based strategies to promote the primary prevention of cancer, support cancer early detection and screening, address the needs of cancer survivors, and promote health equity.

The Wyoming Cancer Coalition (WYCC) is a group of stakeholders from various sectors who are committed to decreasing the burden of cancer in Wyoming. The WYCC's work is driven by the Wyoming Cancer Plan which is a strategic plan that identifies goals and strategies to address gaps in Wyoming. A coalition challenges stakeholders to come together to leverage their resources, create a unified voice, and make a collective impact.

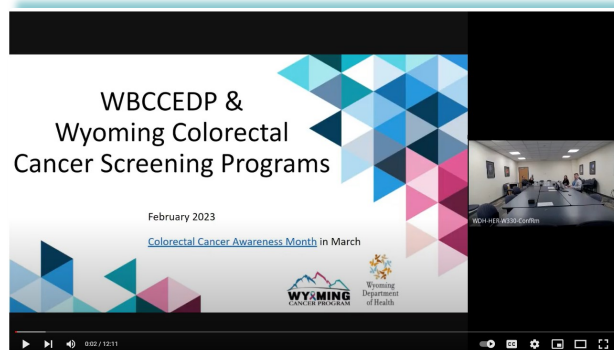
The Wyoming Cancer Resource Services (WCRS) are funded by the WCP and are regional, community based coordinators who provide support services to Wyoming residents. They educate to increase community awareness about cancer prevention and risk factors, they promote early detection of cancer and the importance of cancer screenings, and they provide patient navigation for Wyoming residents needing local, regional, state, or national cancer information and resources including transportation and financial assistance.

The Wyoming Radon Program (WRP) is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and provides radon kits to Wyoming residents at no cost. This program also hosts an annual statewide contest to promote radon education among students.

Provider Resources

The WCP conducts monthly training and listening sessions that are open to all Wyoming providers. Each month's session is recorded and available on our website health.wyo.gov/cancer in the Provider Information section.

Additionally we are sending out a monthly newsletter with information about the screening programs, frequently asked questions, national news, and additional webinars or training opportunities. Providers can subscribe to this newsletter by visiting health.wyo.gov/cancer.



Program Data

Clients Enrolled

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program



Colorectal Cancer Screening Program



- Clients directly enrolled by WCP
- Clients referred by the WCRS

Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program



Colorectal Cancer Screening Program



Clients Screened

- Screened clients directly enrolled by WCP
- Screened clients referred by the WCRS

Cancer Detected by Type

Invasive

472

Cervical

55

Colorectal

98

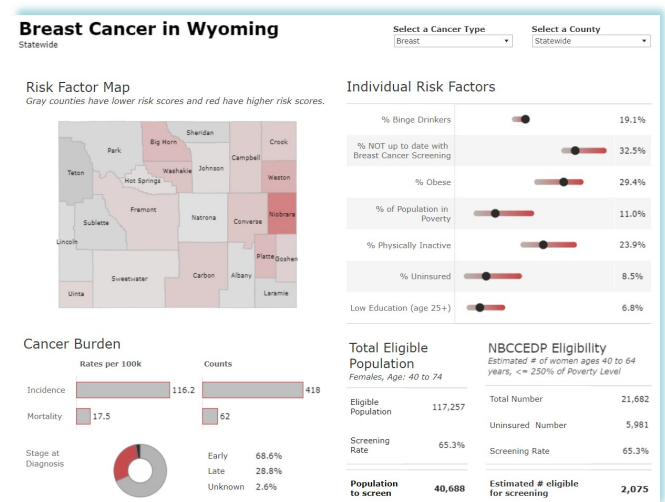
Ductal Carcinoma

57

*Data is pulled for the lifespan of the screening programs; 1997 for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program and 2007 for the Colorectal Cancer Screening Program

Cancer Data Map

In partnership with One Health Insights, the WCP is excited to launch an interactive data map that is specific to individual risk factors, and cancer burden for each county in Wyoming. The map can be found on our website and information will be updated regularly when new data is available. Access the map at health.wyo.gov/cancer.



Colorectal Cancer Screening Bill

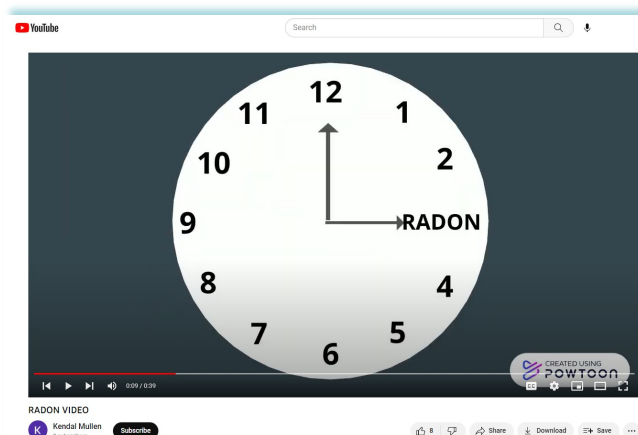


During the 2023 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed and Governor Mark Gordon signed Senate File 0011. This bill increases access to colorectal cancer screenings for people in Wyoming and now aligns the colorectal cancer screening statute with national evidence-based clinical recommendations. The WCP is excited to be able to extend coverage to more Wyoming residents.

Radon Video Contest

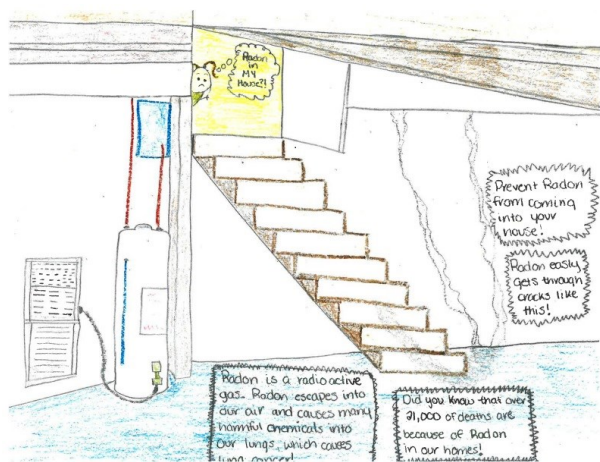
The WRP hosted its second annual Radon Video Contest in the fall of 2022 resulting in more than double the previous year's submissions, from seven entries to fifteen.

The program took a more direct marketing approach to encourage more participation. While a newsletter announcement and social media posts were still utilized, the program directly emailed teachers whose students participated the previous year as well as other teachers who may be interested in participating. The program also expanded the target audience to include after-school programs across the state.



The program plans to continue hosting the Radon Video Contest as long as students and teachers continue to participate. Winning videos can be viewed on the program's website at health.wyo.gov/radon.

Radon Poster Contest



The WRP hosted its annual radon poster contest this year. The radon poster contest was established in 2018 and students in grades 3-9 are invited to participate. Winning posters are utilized in program advertisements and social media messaging throughout the year and all students who participate receive a free radon test kit for their home.

Winning posters can be viewed on the program's website at health.wyo.gov/radon.

Cancer Survivor Needs Assessment

In partnership with One Health Insights and the WYCC survivorship workgroup, the program launched a cancer survivor needs assessment. The goal of this assessment was to identify the unique needs of cancer survivors in Wyoming and to work with statewide partners to find ways to fill those gaps.

The needs assessment consisted of a literature review, key informant interviews, and a survey of over 225 cancer survivors. The information learned during this assessment was broken down into recommendations and the findings are currently being shared with stakeholders across the state. The next stage will be to begin discussions on how to address the needs identified in the assessment.



Working with WBCI



The WCP is honored to continue to partner with Wyoming Breast Cancer Initiative (WBCI) to fund community grants. These grants provide support that is focused on reducing structural barriers, providing patient navigation, and providing support and resources to cancer survivors. This partnership is heading into year 3 with over \$350,000 community grants being funded.

Structural barriers are non-economic burdens or obstacles that make it difficult for people to access cancer screenings. One way to address this barrier is to be creative in how we offer care to Wyoming residents.

In partnership with WBCI and the WCRS, the program is able to fund community breast cancer screening events. These events can look different across the state but are meant to help increase access to cancer screenings for women who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity.

Some events are held in alternative locations such as rec centers or gymnasiums. During these events, clinical-breast exams are provided and mammogram referrals are made. Mammogram schedulers are at the events to assist with scheduling and patient navigators are also available to help with additional resources to reduce barriers such as gas cards for transportation assistance. Others are held at radiology facilities where women can receive a free mammogram the day of the event. In 2022, a total of nine events were held statewide.

1,264

Clinical breast exams

1,377

Mammograms

38

Diagnostic mammograms

6

Breast cancers detected

Patient navigation projects are focused on providing assistance to individuals on a one-on-one basis to reduce barriers to care and encourage completion of screenings.

1,200 received patient navigation services

Survivorship projects are support resources and services provided to cancer survivors, such as support groups, one-on-one counseling, and breast boutique services.

417

Lodging/gas vouchers provided

610

Survivors received support services

95

Group sessions reported

253

Breast boutique services provided

100%

Of participants have reported an increase in their positive well being after receiving supportive patient/survivor services.

Wyoming Cancer Coalition Projects

The following projects are completed or in-progress by the WYCC workgroups. All the projects are intended to work toward satisfying goals established in the Wyoming 2021-2025 Cancer Plan.

Tomato Plant Project

*Wyoming 2021-2025 Cancer Plan
Prevention Goal 3: Increase
healthy eating and physical
activity behaviors*

The WYCC's prevention workgroup continued its tomato plant project in an effort to increase healthy eating and physical activity by encouraging community gardens with opportunities to grow produce. In 2022, the project was able to distribute 100 sun gold tomato seedlings around the state. The produce from this project was

donated to local food banks and farmers markets.

In 2023, the project shifted with goals to make seedlings more accessible by expanding into community gardens in addition to providing seedlings to individuals. Master gardener clubs and Wyoming's Cent\$ible Nutrition have also joined forces to support this project. A rack card has been developed to teach how to save seeds from your harvest to create sustainability for future years.

As part of this work, 1,000

students received tomato seedlings and will grow them as part of a school project. A curriculum is being developed to help increase knowledge in classroom settings about how eating more fruits and vegetables can impact your health.

The tomato plants that grow through this project will continue to be donated to the local farmers markets and food pantries.



Nicotine-Free Schools Toolkit

Wyoming 2021-2025 Cancer Plan Prevention Goal 1, Strategy 3: School Policies

The WYCC's prevention workgroup partnered with the Substance Use and Tobacco Prevention program on a Nicotine-Free Schools Toolkit that includes a comprehensive school policy for schools and community members. This toolkit also promotes healthy messaging and My Life, My Quit.

This toolkit offers alternatives to punishment when a student, staff, administrator, or visitor has violated this policy such as providing youth with education and resources. The toolkit is a resource for prevention specialists to use in work with schools.



If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this toolkit, visit wyomingcancercoalition.org or health.wyo.gov/publichealth/prevention/substanceabuseandsuicide/publications-and-reports/

Childhood Cancer Needs Assessment

Wyoming 2021-2025 Cancer Plan Childhood Cancer Goal 8, Strategy 1: Needs Assessment

The childhood cancer workgroup sent out a needs assessment to families across Wyoming. Forty-nine families responded and provided insight into the current needs in Wyoming. Some key findings included the need for increased access to mental health support such as marriage counseling, family sessions, sibling support, and group sessions, as well as the need for increased hospice care. Finally, access to physical and occupational therapy was also identified.

The workgroup is now exploring ways to remedy the challenges families affected by childhood cancer face. One way this is being accomplished is through a partnership with the University of Wyoming (UW) Psychology Department. This partnership will improve mental health resources for Wyoming families impacted by childhood cancer. Dr. Christina McDonnell, Staff Psychologist, will supervise students on her clinic team at UW to provide consultations, brief interventions, and longer-term therapy to the families referred through Jason's Friends.

Cancer Screening Discussion Guide

Do you have questions about cancer screenings?



Let us help you start the conversation with your provider!



Cancer Discussion Guide

Wyoming 2021-2025 Cancer Plan Screening Goal 4, Strategy 2: Promote Screening

The WYCC's screening and early detection workgroup completed a Cancer Screening Discussion Guide that is available for providers offices. This Guide is designed to help open the conversation between patient and providers. The Guide offers questions that the patients can answer prior to meeting with the doctor as well as suggestions on how to start the conversation about cancer screenings with their provider. Providers can also use this Guide to determine if any additional cancer screenings need to be discussed during the appointment. Providers who are interested in offering this Guide in their clinic can contact the program at wdh.cancerservices@wyo.gov

Wyoming Cancer Resource Services

Free Skin Cancer Screening Events

Throughout the summer the WYCC Coordinator and WCRS regional coordinators were able to participate in three free skin cancer screening events that were open to the public. These events were held in Lusk, Casper, and Lander and resulted in a total of 152 completed screenings, one referral for a biopsy, and 11 cancers found.



Colorectal Voucher Project

The WCRS regional coordinator in Natrona County was awarded a grant from Wyoming Community Foundation to create a colon cancer voucher program to provide coverage for Natrona county residents who did not qualify for the Wyoming Cancer Program but still needed assistance with a colorectal cancer screening. The WCRS partnered with Gastroenterology Associates to negotiate a bundled price for these colonoscopies and has been able to provide vouchers to five Natrona county residents thus far.



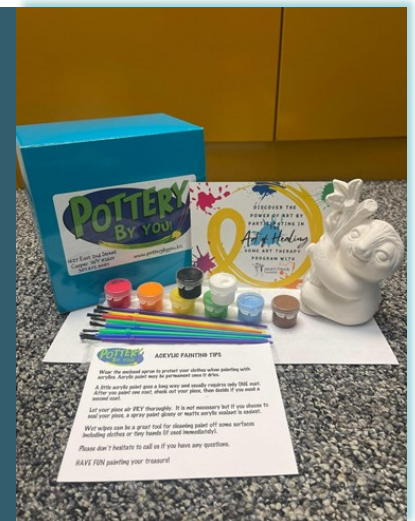
Head and Neck Cancer Screenings

The WCRS regional coordinator in Natrona County partnered with Rocky Mountain Oncology to organize a free head and neck cancer screening event. Offering free screenings is an evidence-based initiative that helps reduce structural barriers and increases access to care. This event resulted in 18 completed screenings and five patients referred for additional screening to address potential cancers.

Art Therapy for Survivors

The WCRS regional coordinator in Natrona County partnered with Rocky Mountain Oncology, Pottery By You, and Artisan Alley to create an art therapy program for cancer survivors. Art therapy is proven to be beneficial for cancer survivors as a way to destress and distract them, even if momentarily.

Participants received either a pottery kit or wood panel kit that they could complete in a group setting. In the future, take home kits will be made available for patients who may not be able to attend an in-person session. In its first year, the project provided 15 pottery kits (Pottery By You) and 20 wood panel kits (Artisan Alley).



Sun Safety Initiatives

Many Wyoming residents enjoy partaking in various outdoor activities offered statewide. Activities range from hunting and fishing to concerts and rodeos and even splash pads and pools. But outdoor activities mean an increased chance of sunburns and skin cancers. One way to combat that risk is to provide opportunities for protection from harmful UV rays. There are many great initiatives toward sun safety happening in Wyoming.

Mobile Sunscreen Dispensers

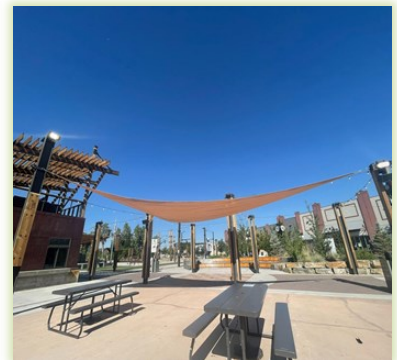
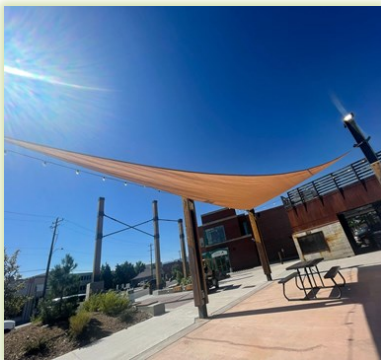
There are over 150 automated sunscreen dispensers available statewide. Some of these dispensers are stationary and located at parks and pools across the state. Others are available for reservation for events like 5Ks, car shows, and other outdoor sporting events. Since this project's inception, mobile dispensers have been provided for 35 community events.

These mobile sunscreen dispensers are available for reservation in Casper, Cheyenne, Lander, and Riverton.



David Street Station

David Street Station is the only venue in Natrona County that holds all events free of charge to the community. In the summer they have a huge splash pad that is full of kids and families, however, there was no shade available to these families at this location. The WCRS regional coordinator worked with Kistler Tent and Awning to provide sun sails for the splash pad. The staff at David Street Station have agreed to put the sun sails up each year in conjunction with activities held there. David Street Station also added tables with sun umbrellas to add one more layer of sun protection for the community.



To learn more about the Wyoming Cancer Program or the Wyoming Cancer Resource Services, visit the program's website at health.wyo.gov/cancer.

To learn more about the goals in the Wyoming 2021-2025 Cancer Plan, to become a member of the WYCC, or to receive the monthly newsletter, visit the WYCC website at wyomingcancercoalition.org.



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