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## *Clinical Champion Update*

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*Date: 04/24/23*

*Subject: Cancer Screening*

April is National Minority Health Month and is a time to call attention to the serious health disparities experienced by underserved racial, ethnic, and geographic communities across the U.S. Cancer affects us all, but it doesn't affect us all the same. Here are a few stats that illustrate these inequalities:

### **Rates of new cases and deaths**

- Black men are more likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer and more than **twice as likely** as other men to die from prostate cancer.
- Black and white women have similar breast cancer incidence rates, but Black women are **40 percent more likely** to die of the disease.
- Hispanic men and women are **twice as likely** as their white counterparts to be diagnosed with and die from liver cancer.
- American Indians/Alaska Natives are **more likely** to die from kidney cancer than other racial/ethnic groups.
- Rates of new cases of lung, colorectal and cervical cancers—which are all highly preventable—are higher in rural than urban areas of the U.S.

### **Screening**

- Hispanic individuals are **much less likely** to be screened for colorectal cancer than white individuals.

- Asian American, American Indians /Alaska Natives, and Hispanic women are **less likely** to have had a mammogram in the past year.
- Hispanic women are **less likely** to be up-to-date on their cervical cancer screening than white women; cervical screening rates among Hispanic women decreased from 2000 to 2015.

We can lower the gap by increasing awareness of cancer risk among groups that have higher cancer rates. Providing access to screening for people who are medically underserved and have low incomes. People need to know their risk of getting cancer so they can take steps to lower this risk. Many things can make a person more likely to get cancer, such as -

- Being exposed to tobacco smoke or drinking alcohol.
- Eating unhealthy food or not being physically active.
- Having a family history of cancer.
- Getting older

Paul Fionte, PA-C

Cancer Screening Clinical Champion