

# South Carolina Cancer Plan 2017-2021

## Mid-Cycle Evaluation

The South Carolina Cancer Plan is a collaboration between the South Carolina Cancer Alliance (SCCA) and state, regional, and local partners that outlines the goals, objectives, and strategies to reduce the impact of cancer in South Carolina. This mid-cycle evaluation shows the progress made on the outlined activities and benchmarks in the first 3.5 years of the five-year plan.

The SC Cancer Plan 2017-2021 is divided into five sections: Prevention, Early Detection, Treatment & Survivorship, Health Policy & Advocacy, and Health Equity. Combined, there are a total of 36 objectives that range in scope from gaining understanding of current knowledge, practices, and procedures to targeting cancer screening rates in specific populations.

## Executive Summary

**Within-Cycle Objectives:** Of the 36 objectives outlined in the SC Cancer Plan, five of them were originally written with due dates prior to the end of the cycle (2021). Three of the five outstanding objectives have been achieved as of July 2020; the two unachieved objectives concern colorectal screenings:

**3.10:** The goal of 80% of adults aged 50-75 being up-to-date with their colorectal cancer (CRC) screening was not achieved by 2018; data shows that current CRC screening rates in this age group are closer to 73%.

**3.13:** A lack of interest from state employers has hampered efforts to raise CRC screening rates among their employees

**End-of-Cycle Objectives:** Many objectives have a deadline of December 31, 2021; of these 22 objectives, 15 have been completed, 2 have been partially completed, and 5 have not been completed – those are:

**3.2:** Breast cancer screening rates remain lower in Black and Hispanic women than White women.

**3.3:** The gap in late-stage breast cancer diagnoses between Black and White women has been reduced to 8%, just shy of the 7.5% goal.

**3.7:** The percentage of women ages 21-65 who have had a Pap smear in the last 3 years has decreased from baseline (82.4%) to 80.8%.

**3.8:** The percentage of Black women whose cervical cancer was diagnosed in its earliest stage has risen from 37% to 39.1%, just shy of the 40% goal.

**3.12:** CRC screenings remain lower in Black and Hispanic populations than in Whites.

**Annual Objectives:** Five of the objectives that indicate yearly benchmarks have been consistently met; the other two are unmet because of a lack of coordination between partners – those are:

**5.5:** Staffing changes and divided tactics have impeded collaboration between SCCA and Smoke Free SC to end tobacco use in the state.

**6.1:** Review of the Cancer Plan and SCCA materials for health equity language and CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) Standards opportunities has not been performed annually.

## Conclusions

The 2017-2021 SC Cancer Plan could benefit from greater specification of goal timelines, data sources, baselines, and targets. The best objectives are SMART: specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-based. Several of the objectives lack specificity in what is being measured, a baseline or target for measuring achievement, or a defined time point for achievement. All the objectives appear achievable and relevant, which speaks to the quality of effort the SC Cancer Alliance and their partners put into addressing cancer outcomes across the state. In its current state, over two-thirds (69.4%) of the objectives outlined have been achieved by the stated deadline; of the remaining outcomes, 5.6% have been partially met and 25% remain unmet. For the best chance of achieving the unmet targets, SCCA should emphasize cancer screening among Hispanic and African American populations and focus on building or repairing partner collaborations.

