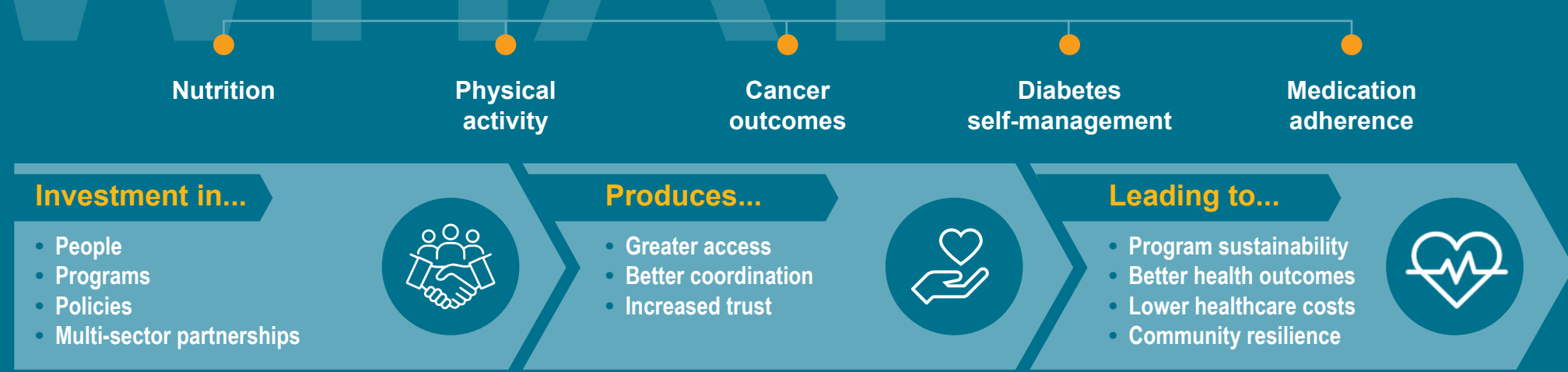




Building, Strengthening, and Sustaining Multi-Sector Partnerships to Advance Cancer Prevention and Improve Chronic Disease Outcomes Across Communities

Partnerships Can Enhance Health

Local and national organizations in all sectors can play a crucial role in improving health. This is especially true in low-income communities, which are often disproportionately affected by chronic conditions like cancer. But no organization can do it alone. That’s why partnerships between community, clinical, or public health sectors are so important. In particular, these partnerships are effective ways to address cancer and chronic disease prevention at local levels and have led to documented improvements in^{1, 7}

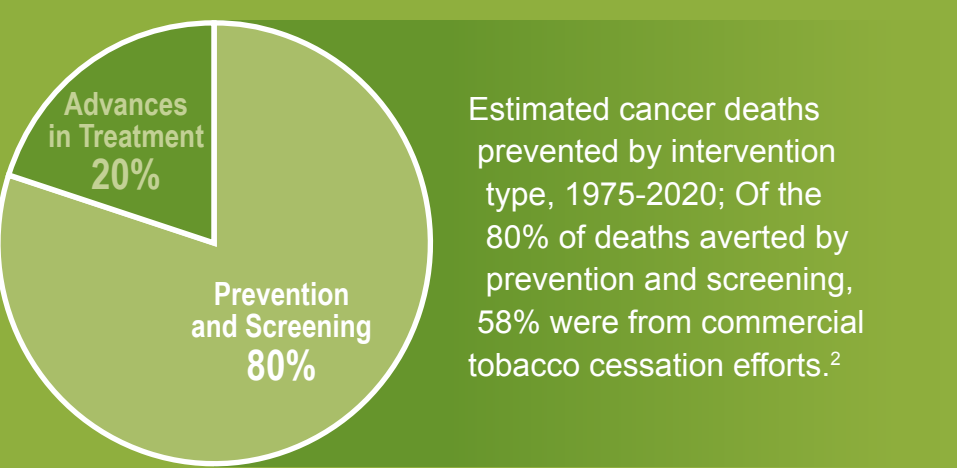


Cancer Prevention Saves Lives

Prevention, screening, and treatment advances in breast, cervical, colorectal, lung, and prostate cancers prevented an estimated 5.94 million deaths from 1975 to 2020; **prevention and screening accounted for 80% (4.75 million) of those averted deaths.**² Despite these cancer prevention efforts, each year, more than 600,000 people living in the United States die from cancer.³

People with low incomes are especially affected by cancer and other chronic diseases. Persistent poverty is associated with higher cancer incidence, lower screening rates, delayed diagnoses, and worse treatment outcomes.⁴ Community-driven cancer prevention efforts can help close gaps in cancer outcomes.

Deaths Averted by Interventions (%)



Who Should My Organization Partner With?

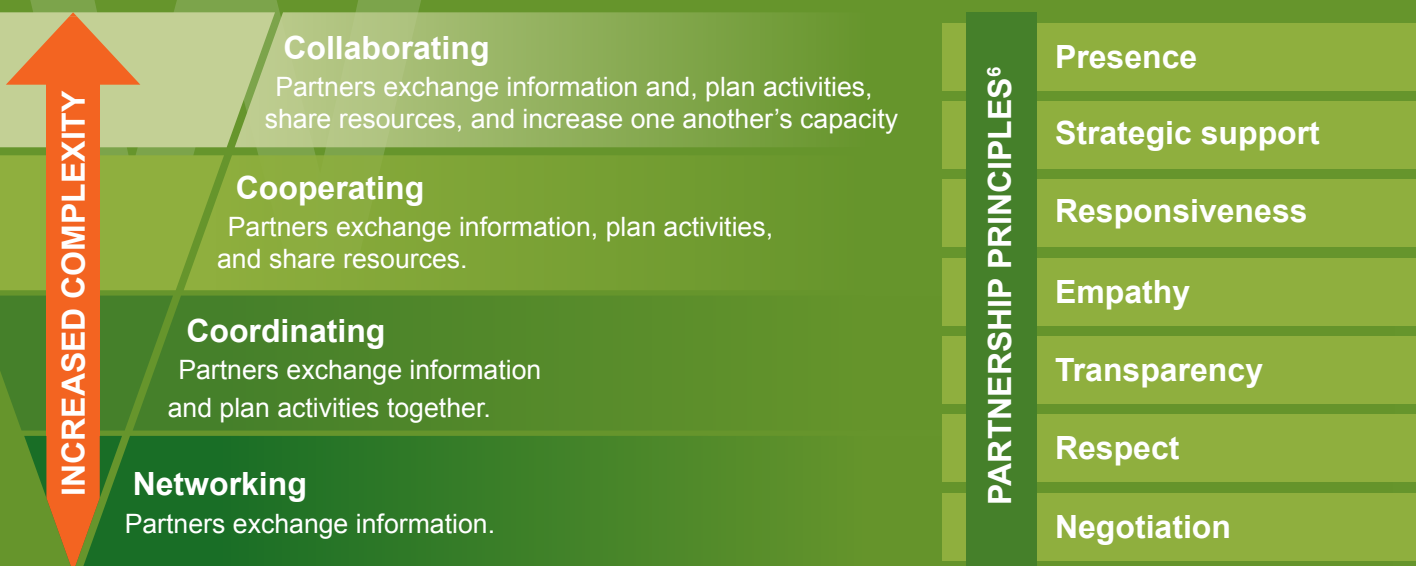
Community voices are at the center of successful programs.

Cross-sector partnerships, especially ones involving businesses or organizations that are important at a community level, help define and meet local needs. Partnerships to address cancer prevention can come from three different sectors: public health, clinical, and community.^{1,5}



How to Choose the Right Level of Partner Engagement

Partnerships can exist at different levels, depending on an organization’s capacity, infrastructure, resource availability, and other factors. Identifying and determining the correct level of engagement will help ensure that partnerships are mutually beneficial and effective and that expectations are clear.¹



Turn Partnerships into Action

Effective partnerships help build bridges between organizations and the communities they serve, building trust and meeting people where they...



Local communities may have additional factors that organizations need to consider when establishing, enhancing, and ensuring the sustainability of robust, trust-based partnerships. For instance, organizations should understand whether the community they are serving exists in an area with a shortage of resources, such as

- [Food deserts](#)
- [Broadband internet access deserts](#)
- [Maternal care deserts](#)
- [Cardiology deserts](#)
- [Pharmacy deserts](#)

Meeting low-income populations where they are means addressing the non-medical factors that drive health, including insurance status, transportation barriers, etc. These factors often guide decisions made by people in low-income populations and can increase risks of cancer and other chronic conditions. Partners should account for these factors and use them to guide decision making during partnership or collaboration. Considering these factors will help garner trust in communities affected by cancer and other chronic diseases.

Turning Partnerships into Action: Recommendations for States, Counties, Multi-Sector Organizations, and Communities

The right partnerships at the right level of engagement and at the right time provide the foundation for action, health improvement, sustainability, and positive changes. The following recommendations will help turn partnerships into change:

Recommendation	Action	Resources
Develop, enhance, and promote sustainability of partnerships.	• Explore best/promising practices for building and sustaining partnerships to address cancer prevention. • Learn more about partnership success stories for cancer prevention.	• CDC Community-Clinical Linkages for the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases: A Practitioner's Guide and Reducing Cancer Disparities Through Partnerships • Association of State and Territorial Health Officials Building Non-Traditional Public Health Multi-Sector Partnerships: How State and Territorial Health Agencies Can Leverage Healthy People 2030 For Innovative Collaboration to Improve Health Outcomes and Advance Health Equity • Center for Healthcare Strategies (funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) Partnership Assessment Tool for Health • Fund for Our Economic Future Collaboration Handbook • UT MD Anderson Be Well Communities • Build Healthy Places Network Overview of Public Health Primer
Address non-medical drivers of health affecting the health of low-income populations and low-resourced communities.	• Coordinate with local organizations to provide transportation to cancer screenings. • Promote resources to connect people with affordable, healthy foods. • Create programs to promote broadband access and increase viability of telehealth programs.	• Uber Health • Federal Communications Commission Mapping Broadband Health in America
Utilize SelfMade Health Network (SMHN) resources to build stronger commercial tobacco and cancer prevention partnerships and programs.	• Use free SMHN webinars, available on demand, to find examples of non-traditional and multi-sector organizations as partners in rural and metropolitan communities. • Download free SMHN resources, which feature partnership recommendations and access to free resources. • Learn more about addressing non-medical drivers of health in low-income populations in free SMHN resources.	SMHN fact sheets: • Enhancing Community-Clinical Linkages: Breast Cancer and Transportation Barriers • Enhancing Community-Clinical Linkages to Improve Cancer Health Outcomes Among Low-Income Populations, Including Veterans, Active-Duty Service Members, Reservists, and Military Families • Enhancing Community-Clinical Linkages: Reducing Lung Cancer Risks with Food Insecurity Among Low-Income Populations SMHN infographics: • Increasing Broadband Access for Cardiovascular Disease Control and Commercial Tobacco Cessation SMHN webinars and presentations: • Pathways to Health Equity: Expanding Community-Clinical Linkages to Improve Health Outcomes Among Low-Income Populations • Healthier Nation Webinar Series: A Blueprint for Cultivating Healthier Counties and Communities to Improve the Health of Low-Income Populations • Enhancing Community-Clinical Linkages to Expand Lung Cancer Screening Nationwide • Meet Me at the Corner: Engaging the Community Where They Are (presentation by SMHN director Dwana Calhoun at 2024 Centers of Excellence Lung Cancer Summit sponsored by the GO2 for Lung Cancer Foundation)

SMHN provides free training and technical assistance to state, county, city, and rural town government programs, health systems, academic institutions, coalitions, multi-sector organizations (e.g. nonprofits, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations), and worksites to improve the health outcomes of low-income populations. Training and technical assistance requests can be submitted to info@selfmadehealth.org. For more information, visit <https://selfmadehealth.org/>.

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