



Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer | VTAAC Vermont's Statewide Cancer Coalition 73rd Quarterly Newsletter

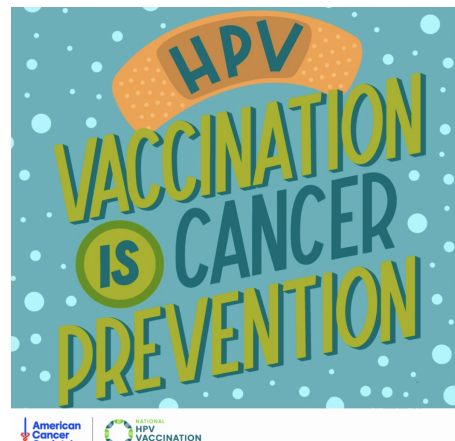
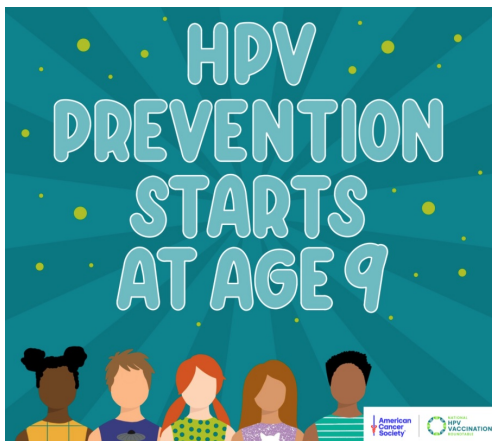
Winter 2024

Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer (VTAAC) provides a forum for collaboration, engagement and sharing of resources for individuals and organizations concerned about cancer in Vermont.

VTAAC Quarterly Newsletters share VTAAC news and resources, provide information on the progress of our [2025 Vermont Cancer Plan](#), communicate meetings and events, and enhance statewide collaboration.

For additional information or meeting details, please visit [our website](#) or reach out to Hanna at coordinator@vtaac.org.

Evidence for Beginning HPV Vaccination at Age 9 Upcoming Free Educational Opportunity



Beginning at Age 9: Evidence for Earlier Initiation of HPV Vaccination
Friday, January 24 from 12-1 pm
[Zoom \(Registration Required\)](#)

Join us for an informative discussion, led by Dr. Grace Ryan of UMass Chan Medical School, designed to equip healthcare professionals and community members with the latest evidence for starting HPV vaccination at age 9.

Is there a difference in immune response or efficacy when starting HPV vaccination at



age 9 versus age 11? What are the practical benefits of initiating HPV vaccination at age 9? Join the conversation to learn more. There will be a Q&A at the end of the presentation. This educational session will be recorded and shared out post-event.

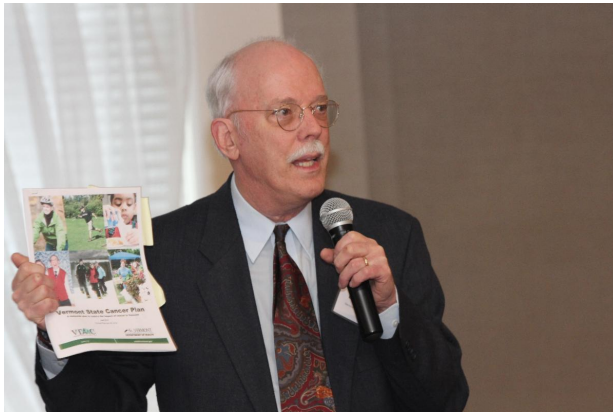
Please share this **free** opportunity widely!

Questions about this discussion? Reach out to Coalition Coordinator, Hanna Snyder, at coordinator@vtaac.org.

**Register
Today!**

Dr. Grace Ryan is an Assistant Professor in Preventive and Behavioral Medicine at UMass Chan. As a behavioral scientist, she conducts mixed-methods and community-engaged research aimed at designing and implementing evidence-based approaches to health promotion in underserved community and clinical settings. Much of her research focuses on adolescent vaccination and she leads work to address widespread urban-rural inequities in uptake of vaccines. She was recently funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to lead the ARISe Center for Rural Vaccination at UMass Chan; this project will focus on addressing vaccine hesitancy across the lifespan in rural New England communities.

A Tribute to David Cranmer A Champion for Cancer Survivors



On October 10, 2024, Vermont lost a passionate advocate, a dedicated leader, and a beloved former colleague. David Cranmer, a cancer survivor himself, was a founder and former coordinator of VTAAC and the co-creator of the Vermont Cancer Survivor Network. Through his tireless efforts, he transformed the lives of countless cancer survivors across the state.

David led VTAAC for over 12 years, shaping the Vermont Cancer Plan through three successful cycles. His goal was simple: to help one cancer survivor every day. And he

did just that—always with compassion, commitment, and a deep sense of purpose.

Beyond his work, David had a joyful spirit. Whether playing guitar, participating in Revolutionary War reenactments, or enjoying road trips in his PT Cruiser, David lived life fully and spread that energy to all who knew him.

David's legacy lives on in the lives he touched and the community he built. He will be deeply missed, but his impact will be felt for years to come. Our thoughts are with his family and all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Thank you, David, for your friendship, your dedication, and your lasting impact on all of us.

Year 2 Evaluation Report

Vermont Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

The evaluation of the Vermont Comprehensive Cancer Control (CCC) included 3 major activities.

1. A **survey of sunscreen dispenser recipient sites** to understand the implementation and effectiveness of the Vermont Community Sunscreen Dispenser Program.

2. **Facilitated conversations** for development of the VTAAC



Cancer Survivorship Resource Center, with resources for cancer patients and survivors, caregivers, and families.

3. Development of a **reporting tool for tracking VTAAC taskforce progress**, as well as an annual taskforce co-lead reflection tool to understand taskforce functioning.

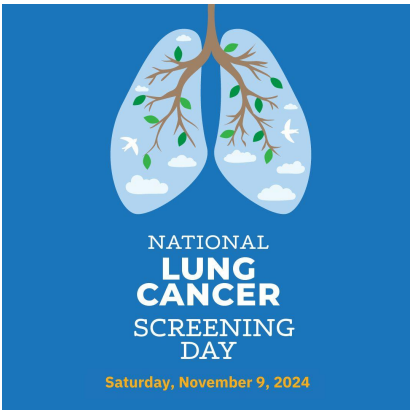
Together, the evaluation efforts in Year 2 provided useful and action-oriented findings regarding the implementation of evidence-based interventions (EBIs) and Cancer Plan implementation progress tracking. Key partners were engaged in the evaluation in multiple ways, including the design of data collection procedures, meaning-making of preliminary results, and discussion of findings to use for programmatic decision-making.

Please refer to [page 2](#) of the report for **key findings** from Year 2 evaluation activities.

[Read the Report](#)

Coalition Taskforce Highlights

National Lung Cancer Screening Day

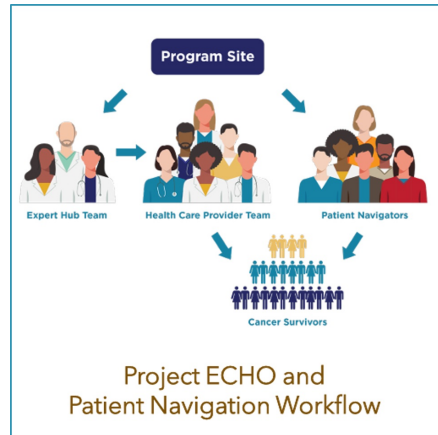


National Lung Cancer Screening Day (NLCS) was Saturday, November 9, 2024. This was the third annual NLCS to raise awareness about lung cancer screening and to reduce access barriers by hosting a screening day on a Saturday.

Northwestern Medical Center, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, and UVM Medical Center participated in Vermont. The [American Cancer Society, 802Quits](#) and VTAAC partnered with these sites to offer additional resources for the event. All screening sites hosted full Saturday clinics, accommodating patients who might otherwise have been unable to schedule a weekday appointment.

VTAAC partners also shared lung cancer screening messaging out throughout

Project ECHO and Patient Navigation Component



VTAAC received funds for July 2024 - June 2025 to implement a Rural Cancer Survivorship Project ECHO and Patient Navigation component to improve the health and wellness of cancer survivors in rural communities.

The goal of Project ECHO is to improve and increase medical and social supports to survivors in rural areas by providing education on the needs and issues faced by rural cancer survivors. VTAAC is working with UVM AHEC to plan and conduct tele-mentoring sessions with primary teams (primary care) and will host six sessions starting in March 2025.

The Quality of Life Taskforce and the Physical Activity and Nutrition in Cancer Survivors Project are working together to

November in honor of Lung Cancer Awareness Month utilizing messaging that the **Dartmouth Cancer Center** created for a previous collaborative campaign.

Lung Cancer Resources

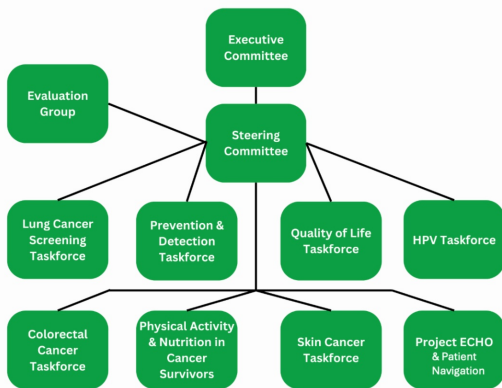


support the Project ECHO planning team to generate the session topics and speaker list.

Southwestern Vermont Medical Center (SVMC) is launching a pilot RN-led Cancer Survivorship Program, led by Rebecca Hewson-Steller. The program will support cancer survivors who have completed treatment at the Cancer Center and returned to their primary care providers. SVMC will contact these survivors at regular intervals to check in and offer resources as needed.

Learn More and Get Involved

VTAAC Organizational Chart



To learn more about current projects for all of the VTAAC taskforces, check out the latest Coalition Activities Update.

Coalition Activities Update

Email Hanna Snyder at coordinator@vtaac.org to get involved.

Winter Sun Safety It's important all year long

Did you know that Vermont has one of the highest incidence rates of melanoma in the U.S.?

By limiting sun exposure you can reduce your skin cancer risk.

5 Winter Prevention Tips:

1. Cover up
2. Use sunscreen
3. Apply lip balm
4. Wear sunglasses or goggles
5. Avoid indoor tanning

This flyer was created in collaboration with the **UVM Cancer Center**, **Dartmouth Cancer Center**, VTAAC and the **Vermont Department of Health**. You can find this ad in Seven Days this winter thanks to the UVM Cancer Center. Learn more about the UVM Cancer Center's sun safety efforts at: go.uvm.edu/besunsafe.



Community Connection

LGBTQIA+ Cancer Research Study



ARE YOU AN LGBTQIA+ VERMONT LIVING WITH CANCER OR A CANCER SURVIVOR?

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.
SCAN THE QR CODE TO TAKE A 5 MINUTE SURVEY.

ARE YOU A CARETAKER OF AN LGBTQIA+ VERMONT LIVING WITH CANCER?

GET QUESTIONS?
QTCancer@UVM.edu

PRIDE CENTER VT | University of Vermont | University of Vermont CANCER CENTER

Are you an LGBTQIA+ Vermonter Living with Cancer or a Cancer Survivor? Are you a Caretaker of an LGBTQIA+ Vermonter Living with Cancer?

Complete the 5-minute survey as part of a study at the UVM Cancer Center to explore cancer-related health disparities in the LGBTQIA+ population in Vermont. Currently there is a lack of high quality data due to the lack of research studies.

If you take part in the study, you will be asked to complete a survey. The survey contains questions about your demographic information. Each question is optional.

After you complete the survey, you will have the opportunity to fill out an additional form to receive a 20 dollar gift card.

Promotional
Flyers

Complete the
Survey



Beyond the Diagnosis: Integrating Trauma-Informed Approaches in Cancer Care

The **National Behavioral Health Network for Tobacco and Cancer Control (NBHN)** is excited to announce their new Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) series, **Beyond the Diagnosis: Integrating Trauma-informed Approaches in Cancer Care**. ECHO is a collaborative model of education and care management that helps professionals provide expert-level care and education wherever they live.

The intersection of trauma and cancer care has emerged as a critical area of focus in comprehensive cancer control efforts. Alongside ECHO faculty and subject-matter experts, participants will learn about the basics of trauma-informed care (TIC) principles and how to implement them across the cancer care continuum. In five 90-minute sessions from January-May 2025, participants will focus on creating opportunities to integrate TIC principles and support mental wellbeing through their cancer prevention and control efforts.

This ECHO is open to people who work in cancer care, cancer centers, clinicians and their teams.

Learn More and Apply By December



Rally Against Cancer

This winter, the UVM Cancer Center, in partnership with UVM Athletics, is raising awareness about cancer screening and prevention and celebrating cancer patients and cancer research through the UVM Cancer Center's Rally Against Cancer games.

- Women's Hockey: Saturday, February 8 vs. Boston College at 6 PM
- Women's Basketball: Saturday, February 15 vs. Maine at 4 PM
- Men's Basketball: Saturday, February 22 vs. UMass Lowell at 4:30 PM
- Men's Hockey: Saturday, February 22 vs. Boston College at 7:30 PM

[Buy Tickets Here](#)



SAVE THE DATE
Rural Health and Cancer Conference
June 19-21, 2025
Burlington, Vermont

The University of Vermont Cancer Center is pleased to announce the inaugural **Rural Health and Cancer Conference**.

The Rural Health and Cancer Conference aims to reduce the rural-urban cancer disparity gap by convening diverse experts from across the nation in rural cancer healthcare delivery and building cross-disciplinary collaborations amongst rural cancer health equity experts.

To learn about conference sessions, abstract submissions and trainee travel awards, visit the [website](#). To receive conference updates, including a link to registration, [sign up here](#).

Please share widely with your colleagues who may be interested in attending. [A Save the Date poster can be found here.](#)

[Learn More](#)

[Complete the Interest Form](#)

Upcoming Cancer Awareness Months

*Indicates that the link navigates to a cancer awareness month communications toolkit

January

[Cervical Cancer*](#)

February

[Gallbladder and Bile Duct Cancer](#)

March

[Colorectal Cancer*](#)

[Kidney Cancer](#)

[Multiple Myeloma](#)

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