

Illinois Rural Cancer Survivor and Caregiver Assessment Newsletter

Issue #4, June 2017

Featured Partner Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) Cancer Institute



The Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) Cancer Institute, the region's first dedicated cancer center, opened its doors in 2015 to answer an unmet need in southern Illinois. They provide services for cancer patients and their caregivers for prevention, detection, diagnosis & planning, treatment, support & survivorship, and end-of-life. SIH is participating in several clinical trials through the National Cancer Institute's Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP), and this research contributes to their standards of excellence and innovation in cancer treatment services.

Website:
<http://www.sih.net/services/sih-cancer-institute/>

Director of Cancer Services
Jennifer Badiu, jennifer.badiu@sih.net

Phone & Location
(618) 985-3333 | Carterville, IL

The purpose of this assessment is to:

- Characterize disparities in self-reported physical functioning, co-morbidities, and cancer recurrence among survivors.
- Characterize disparities in mental health among survivors and caregivers.
- Characterize disparities in self-reported cancer screening and overall healthcare utilization among survivors and caregivers.

For more information, contact:
ymolin2@uic.edu

June 4th is National Cancer Survivors Day!

Illinois survivors:

- Dr. Glasser and colleagues have highlighted multiple needs of rural Illinois survivors and caregivers, including being at risk for depression, experiencing treatment complications, and needing assistance with regard to emotional and social well-being.¹
- Dr. Olson and colleagues found that fatigue, self-efficacy and perceived barriers are important for improving physical activity among rural Illinois breast cancer survivors.²

What have we been up to?

The assessment team traveled to Southern Illinois in May to meet with partners to discuss the Illinois Rural Cancer Survivor and Caregiver Assessment. They met with health departments, hospitals, and a wig salon to discuss outreach. With assistance from our partners, we have enrolled 120 participants, including 53 survivors, 48 caregivers, and 19 survivors + caregivers. Our goal is to have 600 respondents. (Figure 1). To see where respondents are from, check out this map (Figure 2), also available [ONLINE](#).

Looking for new partners.

We are interested in connecting with community partners, healthcare systems and providers, and researchers that focus on Illinois cancer survivors and caregivers. Please let us know if you are aware of organizations and/or individuals with whom we should connect.

Next steps.

From the assessment, we'll be planning next steps with regard to interventions and programs that can promote well-being among folks living in rural areas who have been affected by cancer. In terms of the study, we would like to ask if you know of any cancer survivors and/or caregivers, or community sites and/or clinics who might be interested in spreading word, we'd be grateful if you shared the attached flyer.

Partner features.

In the spirit of collaboration, we would like to feature different partners and researchers in our monthly updates. Partners may be organizations or individuals that work with rural populations. Are you interested in being next month's featured partner or researcher? If so, please contact Leslie Carnahan at lcarna2@uic.edu or 312-355-3880.

References:

1. Glasser, M., Nielsen, K., Smith, S. N., & Gray, C. (2013). Psychosocial needs of rural survivors of cancer and their partners. *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology*, 31(3), 319-333.
2. Olson, E. A., Mullen, S. P., Rogers, L. Q., Courneya, K. S., Verhulst, S., & McAuley, E. (2014). Meeting physical activity guidelines in rural breast cancer survivors. *American Journal of Health Behavior*, 38(6), 890-899.

Figure 1: Recruitment Goal Tracker

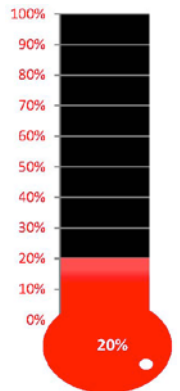


Figure 2: IL Rural Cancer Survey Respondents

