

The Global Cancer Burden

[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Each year, more than 12 million people worldwide learn that they have cancer, and seven and a half million die from the disease.

I'm Dr. Marcus Plescia, Director of the Division of Cancer Control and Prevention at the CDC.

In many low- and middle-income countries, more people die from cancer than from AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis *combined*. In the United States, cancer is the second leading cause of death, killing more than half a million every year. The World Health Organization projects that by 2030, without immediate action, the global number of deaths from cancer will increase by nearly 80 percent.

Research suggests that one-third of cancer deaths can be avoided through prevention, and another third through early detection and treatment. Despite having proven interventions for cancer prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, and care, these things aren't widely available in low- and middle-income countries.

At the United Nations meeting on non-communicable diseases in September 2011, leaders from more than 120 countries unanimously adopted a political declaration proclaiming non-communicable diseases, including cancer, a global priority and committing to taking action to address them. Led by the World Health Organization, U.N. member states are currently working to develop a global monitoring framework, with a set of targets and indicators, including ones for cancer, to support national implementation of non-communicable disease plans.

CDC is working on a number of initiatives to reduce the burden of cancer around the world. For example, CDC is collaborating with the Pan-American Health Organization to train health practitioners in Latin America to screen for cervical cancer using low-cost technologies readily available in limited resource settings.

CDC has joined with the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the Union for International Cancer Control, and other organizations to create the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. The initiative will help countries develop the capacity to produce reliable, high-quality information on the burden of cancer so that effective policies for cancer control can be developed and implemented.

CDC is one of many partners working with the Department of State and private partners to leverage the platform and resources from the Presidents Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to address the burden of cervical cancer in Africa.

In August 2012, CDC is sponsoring a cancer conference which will include sessions on global cancer. We invite you to join us.

For more information, please visit www.cdc.gov/cancer.

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.