

# Joining Forces To Fight Cancer

## Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Control Consortium

### Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer

Death rates from all cancers combined for men, women, and children continued to decrease in the United States between 2004 and 2008. The findings are from the latest "Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer," coauthored by researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, the National Cancer Institute, and the American Cancer Society.

#### Report Highlights

- The overall rate of new cancer diagnoses, also known as *incidence*, among men decreased by an average of 0.6% per year between 2004 and 2008.
- Overall cancer incidence rates among women decreased 0.5% per year from 1998 to 2006; incidence rates among women remained level from 2006 through 2008.
- Lung cancer death rates among women decreased for the second year in a row. Lung cancer death rates in men have been decreasing since the early 1990s.
- Colorectal cancer incidence rates decreased among men and women from 1999 through 2008.
- Breast cancer incidence rates among women decreased from 1999 through 2004, and remained level from 2004 through 2008.
- Incidence rates of melanoma and pancreas, kidney, thyroid, and liver cancer increased from 1999 through 2008.

#### Cancer Among Children

Among children aged 19 years or younger, cancer incidence rates increased 0.6% per year from 2004 through 2008, continuing trends from 1992. Death rates decreased 1.3% per year during the same period.

#### Cancers Associated with Excess Weight and Not Enough Physical Activity

For more than 30 years, excess weight, lack of physical activity, and an unhealthy diet have been considered second only to tobacco use as preventable causes of disease and death in the United States. Since the 1960s, tobacco use has decreased by a third while obesity rates have doubled. The following six cancers are associated with being overweight

- Breast cancer among postmenopausal women.
- Colorectal cancer.
- Endometrial cancer.
- Esophageal adenocarcinoma.
- Cancer of the kidney.
- Cancer of the pancreas.

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## Wyoming Women First

Carol Peterson, Wyoming Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program

Last fall, the General Electric (GE) Company announced a five year \$1 billion investment to develop products aimed at detecting breast tumors at an early stage. The breast cancer initiative includes a three-year partnership with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, to increase access to breast care. The initial programs will focus on Wyoming, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and China.

According to data from the 2010 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), in Wyoming mammogram screening rates are lowest among women without a regular healthcare provider (39.6%) as compared to the highest among women in the state with a regular healthcare provider (71.5%). According to the Wyoming Cancer Surveillance Program, 335 Wyoming women were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009 and 68 died. For women in the state, barriers to breast cancer screening are due to the rural/frontier nature of Wyoming, and include limited access to screening services associated with women not receiving checkups every two years, having no medical home, and women who are uninsured or underinsured. The GE-Wyoming Breast Initiative, known as **Wyoming Women First**, will take place during the course of one year and has several goals that include:

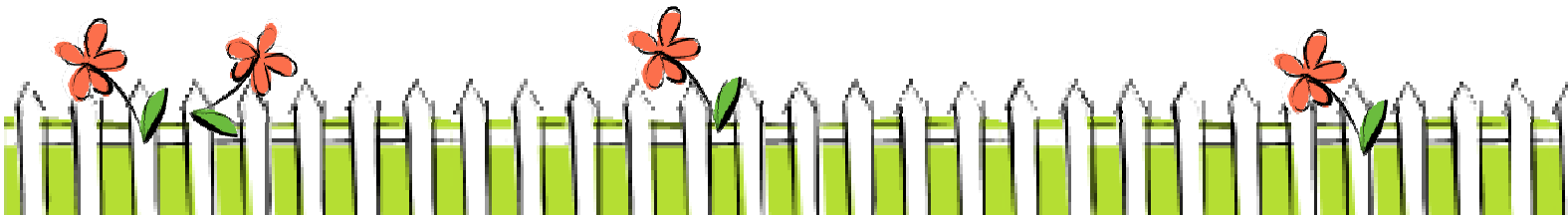
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- Leveraging social media channels, such as Facebook, to target 66,360 Wyoming women who are Facebook users.
  - Implementing traditional outreach strategies to reach women to build awareness about Wyoming's low screening rates for breast cancer and encourage women to get screened.
  - Providing a mobile mammography van with driver and mammogram technician to travel across the state to increase access to screening services in the most rural /frontier areas.
  - Partnering with existing Wyoming mammogram providers who will read the digital mammograms and ensure further follow-up, if needed.
  - Collecting and analyzing data to produce meaningful and sustainable outcomes.

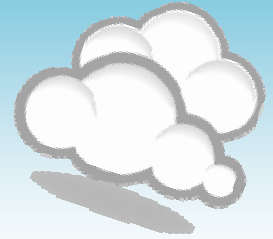
GE has also awarded the Wyoming Komen Affiliate a \$1.25 million dollar grant to implement a three year project to build an expanded statewide collaborative infrastructure to ensure access to breast cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment. The Wyoming Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program is a key partner in both the GE and Komen initiatives. The launch of the year long campaign is expected to start in 2012. The Wyoming B&C Program will work closely with GE and Komen to monitor data collection for the mammography van sites.

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## CancerCare Financial Assistance Program

CancerCare has updated their application and eligibility requirements for their financial assistance program, which provides small grants to help cover treatment-related costs like transportation and child care for people undergoing treatment for cancer. Please visit their website, [www.cancer.org/financial](http://www.cancer.org/financial), for the most current application and instructions.





## Average Cigarette Excise Tax Increases in Several States

Kate Allen, Team INSIGHT Reporter

According to the Surgeon General's 2000 Report on Reducing Tobacco Use, increasing the price of cigarettes reduces the demand for cigarettes, while also reducing youth smoking initiation, cigarette consumption, and prevalence of cigarette use in the United States overall.

The most common way governments have increased the price of cigarettes is by increasing cigarette excise taxes, which currently are imposed by all states and the District of Columbia. Evidence from CDC, the Institute of Medicine, and other scientific agencies suggests that further increases in excise taxes would result in further reductions in demand for cigarettes, resulting in decreased smoking and associated morbidity and mortality. Cigarette excise tax rates are set by legislation or, in some jurisdictions, ballot measures.

During 2010 and 2011, cigarette excise tax increases took effect in eight states—Connecticut, Hawaii, Mexico, New York, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, and Washington. Increases ranged from \$0.40 a pack in Connecticut to \$1.60 in New York. As a result of these changes, the mean state tax increased from \$1.34 in 2009 to \$1.46 in 2011. In 2011, Missouri had the lowest state cigarette excise tax in the United States, at \$0.17 per pack, and New York had the highest, at \$4.35 per pack. Meanwhile, one state, New Hampshire, decreased its tax by \$0.10, marking the first time a state had decreased its cigarette excise tax since 2004.

California has not raised its cigarette excise tax of \$0.87 per pack since 1998. On June 5th, California voters will vote on Proposition 29, which, if approved, would increase the excise tax on a pack of cigarettes by \$1. The additional tax revenue would be used to fund cancer research, smoking reduction programs, and tobacco law enforcement. According to the California Legislative Analyst's Office, the new tax would generate \$735 million a year, and 75% of the revenue would fund cancer research—60% for direct research activities and 15% for facilities and equipment to support cancer research.

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## Skin Cancer Drug Approved by FDA

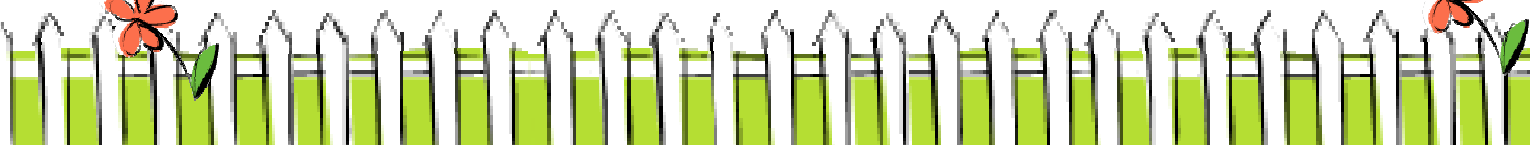
Sonja Haller, The Republic

The Food and Drug Administration's approval of a new drug that gives hope to patients with a type of advanced skin cancer -- patients who, until now, had no other treatment options. The drug passed through the federal approval process in five years -- less than half the normal time -- because it proved effective in advanced basal cell carcinoma patients who are no longer candidates for radiation and surgery.

Basal cell carcinoma, which typically appears on the face and upper body, is the most common of all skin cancers, with more than 1 million people diagnosed a year. When it advances, it can become both disfiguring and deadly.

Testing found that the drug, Erivedge, shrank tumors in 30 percent of patients whose disease had metastasized and spread in the body. Also, 43 percent of patients in which the disease had spread to surrounding tissue had a complete or partial response. Erivedge, a pill taken once a day, works by blocking the signals in the cellular pathway that leads to cancer growth.

Read more: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/scottsdale/articles/2012/01/30/20120130skin-cancer-drug-tested-valley-approved.html#ixzz1wwUnnxeh>





## Remembering Eddie Wadda

Edward Wadda, Tribal Liaison between the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and Governor Matt Meads office, passed in a car accident on May 31<sup>st</sup> at the age of 42. Eddie served as Tribal Liaison since 2005. He also volunteered as an adviser for Wind River United National Indian Tribal Youth, (UNITY) which works to promote drug-free, healthy lifestyles as well as promoting education, and keeping culture and traditions alive. Eddie was dedicated to working with people of all ages but especially with American Indian youth and he inspired young people to do well in their lives, to overcome even the most limiting or negative of circumstances. Eddie was also a very active member of the Wyoming Comprehensive Cancer Consortium and served on the Steering Committee. He saw and understood the big picture of prevention and was always a great partner.

In addition to his work with state government, he was a teacher at Wyoming Indian Elementary School for several years. Eddie was born in Lander and grew up in Fort Washakie. He was a basketball standout for the Lander Tigers and graduated from Lander Valley High School before obtaining a teaching degree from the



University of Wyoming and a master's from Oklahoma City University. At the time of the crash Eddie was returning from Gillette, where he had been attending activities with Wyoming Indian High School standout player John Soundingsides for the South Dakota-Wyoming all-star basketball game. Eddie lived his life as positive as anyone could. The loss of Eddie is a loss for the entire state of Wyoming. The untimely passing of Eddie has left us all speechless. Eddie you will forever be missed. We are thankful for the time we had with you and are grateful for everything you have done for your state. As Eddie often said "Do right by each other and do work ma peeps!"

