



National Comprehensive
Cancer Network[®]

Policy Solutions to Address Disparities in Cancer Care

Alyssa Schatz, MSW
Senior Director, Policy and Advocacy
National Comprehensive Cancer Network

NCCN Mission and Vision

Who We Are

An alliance of leading cancer centers devoted to patient care, research, and education

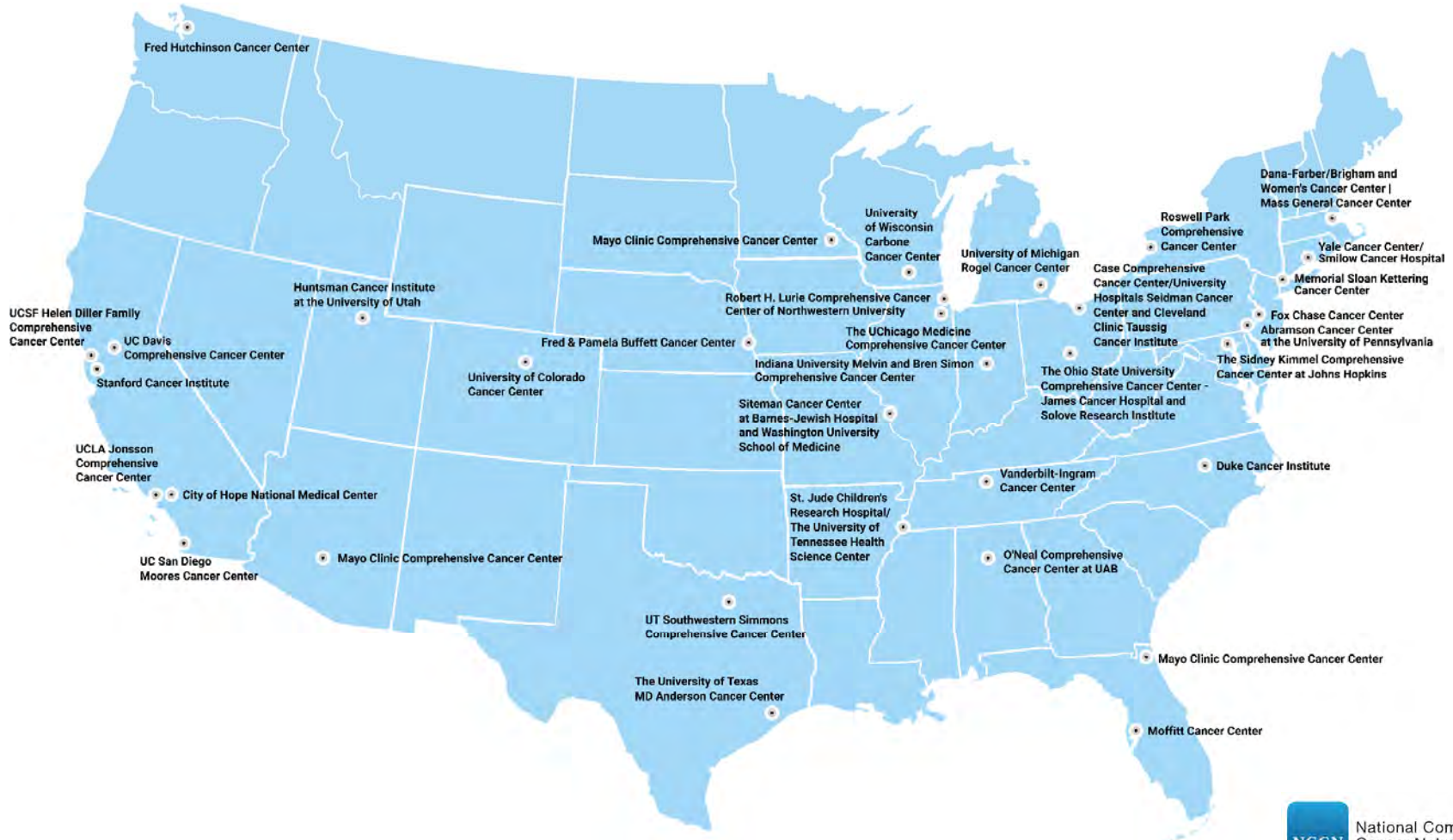
Our Mission

To improve and facilitate quality, effective, equitable, and accessible cancer care so all patients can live better lives

Our Vision

To define and advance high-quality, high-value, patient-centered cancer care globally

NCCN Member Institutions



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NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®)

The NCCN Guidelines® are:

- *Comprehensive:* 85 NCCN Guidelines® apply to 97% of cancer cases in the US and cover the entire continuum of care
- *Continuously updated:* Updated at least annually and more as the evidence demands
- *Multi-disciplinary:* Multi-specialty representation including patient advocate expertise
- *Widely used:* 13.3 million downloads in 2022 and used for coverage by payers representing 85% of covered lives in the US



Impact of Inequity on Cancer Care

Inequities in Cancer Care Access and Outcomes

Disparities in cancer care access exist across race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, income, insurance status, geography, and more. Inequities are driven by a variety of historic and ongoing governmental, systemic, and interpersonal factors.

Black Americans have the highest cancer death rate and shortest survival of any racial/ethnic group in the US

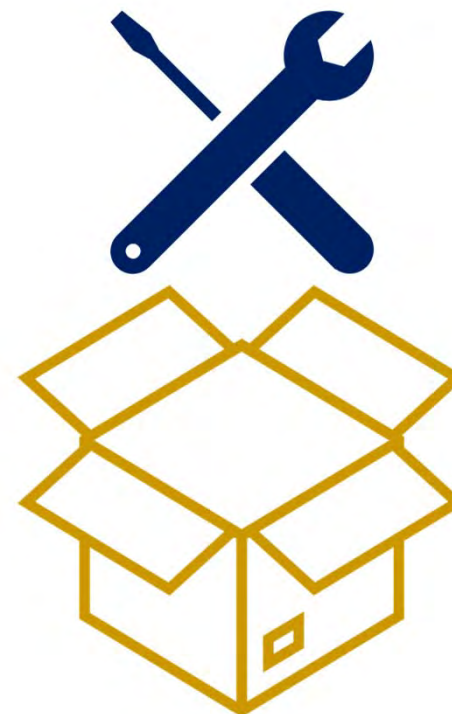
Hispanic/Latine and Black Americans are less likely to receive needed pain treatment

Racial disparities cost hundreds of billions of dollars in the United States each year.

1. American Cancer Society, *Cancer Facts and Figures for African Americans 2019-2021*
2. Meghani, SH, Beyun, E, Gallagher, RM. *Time to Take Stock: A Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review of Analgesic Treatment Disparities for Pain in the United States. Pain Medicine, 2012*
3. *United States National Institutes on Minority Health and Health Disparities, 2023*

The Role of Guidelines in Reducing Disparities

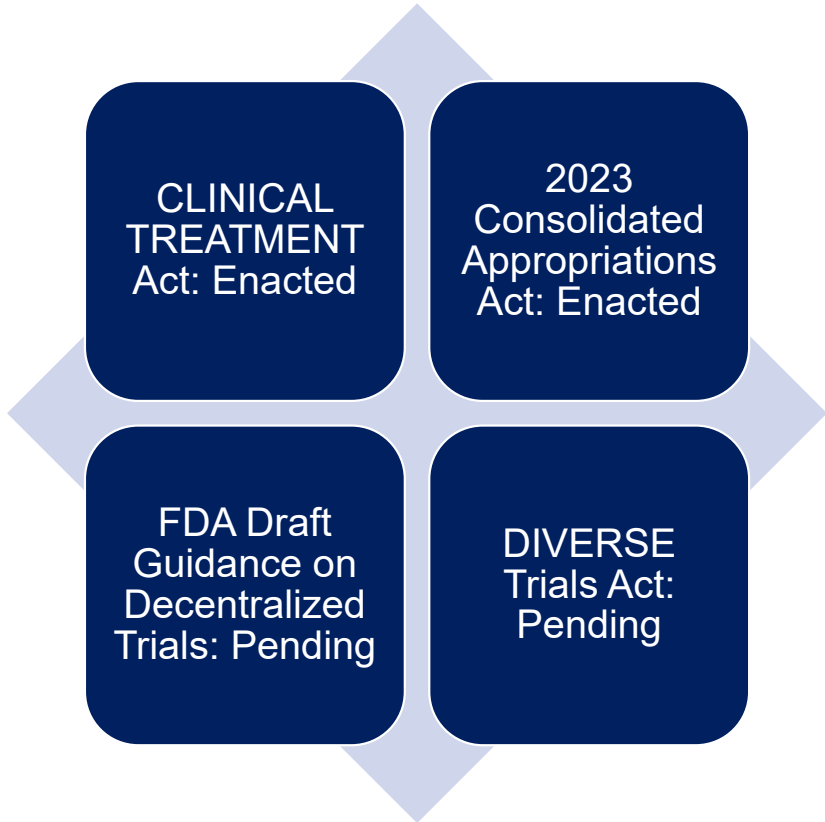
- Numerous studies have found racial disparities in cancer care access and outcomes.
- Guideline concordant care improves care outcomes and can reduce racial disparities in care outcomes.
- In addition to addressing SDOH, bias, and discrimination, Guideline adherence is an important tool to address inequities.



1. Bristow, RE, Powell, MA Al-Hammadi, N., et al. Disparities in Ovarian Cancer Care Quality and Survival According to Race and Socioeconomic Status, *JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, Volume 105, Issue 11, 5 June 2013, Pages 823–832, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djt065>
2. Fang P, He W, Gomez D, et al. Racial disparities in guideline-concordant cancer care and mortality in the United States. *Adv Radiat Oncol*. 2018;3(3):221-229. Published 2018 May 4. doi:10.1016/j.adro.2018.04.013
3. Blom EF, Ten Haaf K, Arenberg DA, de Koning HJ. Disparities in Receiving Guideline-Concordant Treatment for Lung Cancer in the United States. *Ann Am Thorac Soc*. 2020;17(2):186-194. doi:10.1513/AnnalsATS.201901-094OC

The Evolving Policy Landscape Related to Equity in Cancer Care

Recent Policies Supporting Representative Clinical Trials



Recent Policies Impacting Cancer Screening Access

Introduced legislation related to inequities in screening access

Increasing Access to Lung Cancer Screening Act (H.R.4286)

PSA Screening for HIM Act (H.R. 1826)

SCREENS for Cancer Act of 2023 (H.R. 3916, S.1840)

Recent Policies Impacting Health Related Social Needs

- CMS, CMMI, Joint Commission, NCQA, and others are increasingly moving to require health systems to
 - Collect better data and monitor for health inequities
 - Report on inequities
 - Address inequities
- CMS Proposed Physician Fee Schedule newly includes reimbursement for:
 - Social Determinants of Health Risk Assessment
 - Principal Illness Navigation
 - Community Integration Services



NCCN Initiatives to Improve Equitable Care Delivery

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Health Equity Report Card

Tool for providers, payers, and accreditation entities working to advance equitable practices in cancer care



- Includes 17 practices to advance equitable care delivery divided into the following categories:
 - Community Engagement
 - Accessibility of Care and Social Determinants of Health
 - Addressing Bias in Care Delivery
 - Quality and Comprehensiveness of Care
- Piloting in community and academic oncology settings



Health Related Social Needs Working Group

NCCN convened a working group on Measuring and Addressing Health Related Social Needs in Cancer on April 13, 2023 at NCCN Headquarters in Plymouth Meeting, PA

The Working Group consisted of 15 representatives from leaders and experts throughout various fields of oncology

The group used a consensus driven process to identify high impact health-related social needs for measurement and intervention for cancer

HRSN Working Group Measure Recommendations

Core Measures



**TRANSPORTATION
ACCESS**



**HOUSING
SECURITY**



ACCESS TO FOOD



**FINANCIAL
SECURITY**

Additional Measures for Consideration

Social support and
caregiver support

Utility assistance

Work support,
including employer
accommodations
and paid sick leave

Neighborhood and
community safety

Health insurance
needs

Health literacy and
health insurance
literacy

Digital connectivity



Recommendations

Practice

Policy

Professional Society
Guidelines

Key Takeaways

- Inequities in cancer care access and outcomes are pervasive, but not inevitable.
- Many proposed and finalized policies can support systems transformation across clinical trials, early detection, and HRSNs.
- Policymakers, payers, accreditation entities increasingly expect healthcare professionals to track and address HRSNs.
- Stakeholders are also increasingly developing tools to support this systems transformation.

Thank You!