



TAKING AIM AT CANCER
IN LOUISIANA

Why was Taking Aim at Cancer in Louisiana (TAACL) Formed?



Louisiana has persistently poor cancer outcomes — and significant racial and geographic disparities across all cancers.



Louisiana ranks **46th out of 50 states** in aggregate cancer outcomes — if we reduce its cancer mortality rates to the national average, **1,500 fewer** Louisianans will die each year.



Cancer outcomes for **blacks** are **30% worse** than for whites, regardless of health plan coverage. There are also regions in Louisiana with very poor outcomes — so called “hot spots.”



Multiple small initiatives have failed to make a significant impact statewide because they have lacked the scale and depth to do so. **This is unacceptable.**



TAACL was founded in 2018 through a grant from the United Health Foundation. The grant supported comprehensive research of Louisiana’s current cancer outcomes to identify the areas of greatest need and opportunity for improvement.




TAACL’S Big Idea:

To improve cancer outcomes in Louisiana by expanding residents’ access to cancer prevention, screening and standard of care treatment.

This can only be done if we all work together!

Initial Interventions will Target:

 Breast Cancer Treatment

 Colorectal Cancer Screening


TACL's 4 Clinical Initiatives:


- 1 Reduce breast cancer treatment and cost variation across the state
- 2 Establish reliable colorectal screening and referral systems
- 3 Expand access to colonoscopies
- 4 Train community health workers and navigators to help populations overcome barriers to screening and connect them with needed resources


TACL's 4 Infrastructure Support Initiatives:


- 1 TACL governance/core staffing
- 2 Establish a payer council (payment/policy changes that impact screening)
- 3 Creation of a statewide screening registry
- 4 Public awareness campaign (targeted at patients/physicians for colorectal cancer screening)


We are asking for your support in establishing TACL as Louisiana's unifying cancer improvement initiative.

 Make breast cancer and colorectal cancer screening a priority in your own organization — adopting the recommendations and guidelines set by the clinical committee for both breast cancer and colorectal cancer

 Sign the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable's pledge for supporting an 80% screening rate

 Help recruit participating organizations for initiatives

 Share resources that could help with screening barriers and access issues

 Make a modest financial investment to fund TACL's budget and initiatives



TACL's Participants — About 80% of Health Care in LA:

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana
- Gulf South Minority Underserved NCORPs
- Humana
- LCMC Health
- Louisiana Department of Health
- Louisiana Department of MCO Association
- Louisiana Cancer Prevention & Control Programs
- Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center
- Ochsner Health System
- Patient Advocate/ Cancer Survivor
- Peoples Health
- Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System
- Teche Action Clinics
- Tulane School of Medicine
- Turner Industries
- United Healthcare
- Willis-Knighton Health System
- Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport

Involved health systems provide 80% of inpatient cancer care in Louisiana, health plans and the state provide 78% of the coverage for Louisianans.