

Ontario Cancer News



Holiday message from Terry Sullivan

As we near the end of an eventful year in health care, Cancer Care Ontario celebrates with our partners the completion of Ontario's first comprehensive cancer plan. In addition, we have successfully launched a wait time reduction effort in cancer surgery, with 20 hospital partners. I look forward to working with our dedicated staff and partners during the coming year to implement the Ontario Cancer Plan. Together we will continue to drive quality, accountability and innovation in Ontario's cancer system. Best wishes to you and your families for a very happy and healthy holiday season.



CCO's 2005-2006 Data Book: The final chapter

In late November, Cancer Care Ontario provided each of the integrated cancer program sites with its 2005-2006 Data Book. Prepared through a collaborative process with the integrated cancer programs (ICPs), the Data Book defines and summarizes all of Cancer Care Ontario's data reporting requirements from ICPs as part of the Cancer Program Integration Agreement.

"The Data Book provides integrated cancer programs with a consolidated list of CCO's data needs," says **Sarah Kramer**, the organization's chief information officer. "It defines in a clear and concise manner the important clinical, operational and financial data that will enable CCO to improve its capacity to monitor and measure the performance of the cancer system."

The 2005-2006 Data Book provides several benefits to ICPs, Cancer Care Ontario and the cancer system in general. The Data Book will:

- Facilitate complete, accurate and timely submission of data for the entire cancer patient population within an ICP;
- Set clear expectations and clearly defined roles and responsibilities among all stakeholders;
- Reduce the number of data elements by about 50% from the integration agreement to focus only on those data that will be utilized;
- Set a baseline and common data set across ICPs; and
- Introduce and establish an ongoing collaborative process.

Over the next few months, Cancer Care Ontario will be working with ICPs implementing their respective processes and information technology systems to ensure the appropriate data can be submitted and reported effective April 1, 2005.

For more information on CCO's Data Book call **Srini Srinivasan** at (416) 971-5100 x 1511 or email [srini.srinivasan@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:srinivasan@cancercare.on.ca).



Occupation of firefighting and cancer risk

A systematic review of the published literature about the occupation of firefighting and cancer risk conducted by Cancer Care Ontario researchers has concluded that there is limited evidence of increased risks for certain types of cancer.

The goal of the project, commissioned by the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia, was to analyze the existing literature regarding the causal association between firefighting and cancers of the brain, kidney, bladder, ureter, colon, testes, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia, lung cancer in non-smokers and multiple myeloma. Firefighters have the potential for exposure to a large number of substances, some of which have been classified as known or suspected carcinogens.

CCO researchers concluded that there was limited evidence of increased risks for brain and colorectal cancers and no evidence of an increased risk for lung or kidney cancer. For the remaining cancers considered, the available data were considered to be insufficient to determine whether or not there is an increased risk associated with the occupation of firefighting.

The project included a comprehensive review of the scientific literature for studies published between 1966 and 2003. Each eligible study was assessed for quality by two independent reviewers. A total of 18 studies were included in the final analysis.

Assessing the relationship between occupational exposures and cancer risk is challenging due to the long latency periods associated with cancers, the difficulty in establishing a baseline risk and the difficulties associated with obtaining data on occupational exposures. For these reasons, and because of the limited data available so far, CCO researchers recommend that more research is needed.

This review is part of the Occupational Cancer Research and Surveillance Project, a three-year joint initiative of Cancer Care Ontario and Ontario's Workplace Safety & Insurance Board. The goals of this project are to: develop surveillance tools for both occupational cancers and occupational carcinogen exposures, identify research priorities and to establish relationships with various stakeholder communities.

The full report—*The Occupation of Firefighting and Cancer Risk: Assessment of the Literature*—may be found at: http://www.worksafebc.com/law_and_policy/policy_consultation/law_40_10_290.asp



People news

Dr. Deb Dudgeon has joined Cancer Care Ontario as clinical lead, Palliative Care. A medical oncologist, Dr. Dudgeon is the director of the Palliative Care Program for Southeastern Ontario Academic Health Sciences Centre, and the W. Ford Connell Professor of Palliative Care at Queen's University. She received her medical degree from McMaster University.

In her new role, Dr. Dudgeon will be visiting each of the regional cancer programs to compose a baseline assessment of palliative care services in the link between CCO's programs, community organizations and hospices providing palliative care. She will also play an active role with the Provincial Committee on End-of-Life Care and present back through CCO's Clinical Council on suggested approaches to enriching palliative care initiatives for cancer patients across the province.

Effective February 1, 2005, **Dr. Carol Sawka** will assume the role of provincial vice president, Clinical Programs for Cancer Care Ontario. She has spent the last six years in leadership roles at Toronto Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre, and has been the centre's CEO/RVP since 1999. A medical oncologist, Dr. Sawka received her MD from the University of Alberta. She is an associate professor in the departments of Medicine; Public Health Sciences; and Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto, and an adjunct senior scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. CCO and Sunnybrook & Women's will soon launch a national search for a new RVP. Announcement of an acting RVP is expected shortly.

Moyez Jadavji was appointed acting RVP in Windsor effective October 1. Moyez has been director of Regional Planning and Administration in the South region since July of 2001. He holds an MHSc (Health Administration) from the University of Toronto, and is a Certified Executive (CHE) with the Canadian College of Health Service Executives.

Bertha Paulse has accepted the position of vice president, Regional Cancer Program and Clinical Services in Sudbury, effective January 17, 2005. Currently she is chief executive officer of Newfoundland Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation. She brings more than 15 years of experience with cancer care programs and leadership in health care settings, including four years as chief operating officer at London and Kingston regional cancer centers. Bertha is an experienced surveyor with Canadian Council of Health Services Accreditation, an associate clinical lecturer with the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University, and an active participant in national cancer control initiatives.

Bertha has a masters degree in Health Administration from Dalhousie University, as well as a certificate in Long-Term Care Organization and Management from the Canadian Hospital Association in Ottawa.

Deb Keen will join Cancer Care Ontario on January 24, 2005, as director of the Prevention Unit. Deb has a background in public health management, most recently as manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention at the Region of Peel Health Department. She has had extensive experience establishing effective partnerships and providing leadership to move collaborative initiatives forward in the Greater Toronto Area. In her current role she has also managed partnership development with the school boards with a total of 350 schools. Deb has a BSc in Nursing, and is completing a Masters in Public Administration at the University of Western Ontario, with a focus on local and provincial politics and public policy.

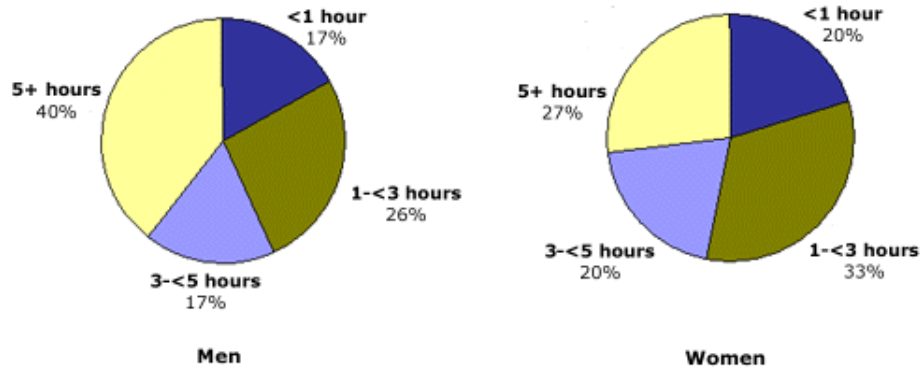
Ontario Cancer Fact



Physical activity improves health. A little is good, and more is better. At least 30 to 45 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity on most days of the week is recommended for reducing cancer risk. This amounts to three hours per week at a minimum, and preferably five hours.

In Ontario, just 47% of women and 57% of men aged 18-64 get the minimum recommended hours per week of moderate to vigorous physical activity, and only 40% of men and 27% of women do the preferable five hours per week. Nearly 20% are active for less than one hour per week.

Weekly hours of physical activity in Ontario adults aged 18-64



Source: Cancer Care Ontario, Ontario Nutrition and Cancer Prevention Survey, 2003

Canada's Physical Activity Guide to Healthy Active Living recommends activity in periods of at least 10 minutes each. It is not currently known whether more sustained activity is required for cancer risk reduction.

For information on getting active and building physical activity into your daily life, see Canada's Physical Activity Guide at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/pau-uap/paguide/>. Remember, physical activity does not have to be exercise done as an organized activity or a visit to the gym. The guide has ideas for building physical activity into everyday activities.

For other physical activity information from the Ontario Nutrition and Cancer Prevention Survey, see Insight on cancer. News and information on nutrition and cancer prevention, at <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/pdf/InsightNutrition.pdf>.

For more information, talk to your health care provider or call Cancer Information Service at 1-888-939-3333.

CCO's Web site will be changing

Since the integration of the regional cancer centres with their host hospitals this January, Cancer Care Ontario's mandate has shifted to be more system focused. As a result, we are redesigning our Web site to better reflect our organization. We would appreciate your input so we can design a Web site that will work better for you. Please take a minute to answer the following questions and click on the Submit button.



1) Which of these categories best describes you?

- Physician
- Other health care professional
- Health administrator
- Health/medical researcher
- Patient or family member
- General public

2) Where do you live?

- Ontario, Canada
- Elsewhere in Canada
- Outside Canada

3) How often do you visit www.cancercare.on.ca ?

- Daily

Frequently
Occasionally
Rarely

4) What kind of information do you look for on CCO's Web site? (choose as many as apply)

Information about accessing cancer services (e.g. treatment locations, wait times, funding for cancer drugs)

General information about cancer (e.g. types of cancer, types of treatment)

Treatment or practice guidelines

Drug Formulary

Cancer Statistics

Job Postings

Prevention and Screening Information

Contact Information

Other (please specify)

5) Are you able to find the information, or links to the information you want on CCO's Web site?

Always

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

6) Do you have any suggestions to help improve the usability of CCO's Web site?

Contact Us

All enquiries and article suggestions should be directed to:

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