



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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Dickinson-Iron District Health Department Promotes Cancer Control and Prevention in October

Kingsford and Iron River, Michigan, October 2, 2013 – Local health departments across the state have designated October as Cancer Prevention and Control Month.

“Cancer is the second leading cause of death among Americans, exceeded only by heart disease,” said Barb Peterson, Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner. “While breast cancer awareness is typically promoted in October, we need to take this opportunity to educate Dickinson and Iron County residents about other cancer screening services and resources available to them, as we are always working to promote healthy lifestyles.”

Regular screening and examinations by a health care provider can result in the prevention of cervical and colorectal cancers through the discovery and removal of precursor lesions. Screening can detect cancers of the breast, colon, rectum, cervix, prostate, and oral cavity, and skin at earlier stages when treatment is more likely to be successful. Cancers that can be prevented or detected earlier by screening account for about half of all new cancer cases.

In 2013, about 580,350 Americans are expected to die of cancer, almost 1,600 people per day. Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the U.S., exceeded only by heart disease, accounting for nearly 1 of every 4 deaths.

In 2013, the American Cancer Society estimated that 57,560 new cancer cases in Michigan were diagnosed (down from 57,790 in 2012) with 20,570 cancer deaths occurring in our state (slightly up from 20,430 in 2012, but down from 20,740 in 2010).

Michigan’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) provides free breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to underserved women aged 40-64 years in Dickinson and Iron Counties. Since the program started in 1992, statewide the BCCCP has provided 478,377 screenings to uninsured and underinsured women with 4,023 breast cancer and 2,793 cervical cancer diagnoses.

For more information about the local BCCCP, call 779-7237 in Dickinson County and 265-4166 in Iron County.

Smoking is the leading risk factor for lung cancer. The best way to prevent lung cancer is not to smoke and to avoid all exposure to secondhand smoke. The Michigan Tobacco Quit Line (1-800-QUIT-NOW) provides free tobacco cessation counseling services to all Michigan residents. In addition, some may be eligible for free nicotine replacement therapy aides such as patches or gum, particularly the uninsured.

For more information about cancer prevention and control resources, please contact your local health department or visit www.didhd.org, www.michigan.gov/cancer, www.michigancancer.org, www.cancer.org, or www.cancer.gov.

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