

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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June is National Cancer Survivorship Awareness Month

Michigan City, IN (June 10, 2004) The LaPorte County Relay For Life committee reminds everyone that June is National Cancer Survivorship Awareness Month.

“The number of people affected by cancer, both those diagnosed with the disease and their families and friends, is substantial,” said Laura New, chairperson. “The CDC and the Lance Armstrong Foundation are leading a public health effort to address the issues faced by the growing number of cancer survivors living with, through, and beyond cancer. You can learn more about CDC’s new [Cancer Survivorship Initiative](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/survivorship/index.htm) (<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/survivorship/index.htm>).

According to the *Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer, 1975–2001*, Americans’ risks of getting cancer and dying from this disease continue to decline, and survival rates from many cancers continue to improve. Findings from the report also indicate a decline in cancer incidence rates, death rates for all cancers combined, and lung cancer incidence among women.

The American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute reported that, in 2003, more people diagnosed with cancer are surviving each year; 62% of cancer survivors are expected to live at least five years after diagnosis, and there were approximately 9.6 million cancer survivors in the U.S. in 2000.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Lance Armstrong Foundation, and nearly 100 experts in cancer survivorship and public health have partnered to identify and prioritize cancer survivorship needs and to propose strategies for comprehensively addressing those needs within the public health infrastructure. [A National Action Plan for Cancer Survivorship: Advancing Public Health Strategies](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/survivorship/overview.htm) (<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/survivorship/overview.htm>) charts a course for how the public health community can more effectively and comprehensively address cancer survivorship and focus on improving the quality of life for survivors.

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