

Opportunity to Collect Survey Data

Dartmouth Cancer Center (DCC)'s Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) team conducts a population health needs assessment survey every 4-5 years. Through this web-based population survey, DCC asks a variety of questions aimed at identifying cancer-related needs and disparities from about 1,700 adults in DCC's catchment area of New Hampshire (NH) and Vermont (VT). DCC is planning the next survey for early 2026 and is offering the opportunity for researchers and community-based organizations to propose questions for inclusion in the survey. Selected applicants will receive a deidentified dataset for their proposed survey questions, along with respondent demographics.

See pages 4-5 to learn more about the population health needs assessment survey.

Applicant Eligibility

Teams submitting proposals may be either:

- Researcher teams, which must include at least one [DCC Research Program Member](#), or
- Community-based organizations (government, non-profit, and/or for-profit) conducting work in NH and/or VT.

Proposed Survey Question Guidelines

Requirements

Proposals may include up to 10 questions for inclusion in DCC's survey. Questions should:

- Be '**cancer-relevant**,' meaning anything related to aspects of cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, palliative care, and end of life.
- **Not include** questions already included in DCC's survey (see page 4), including basic demographic questions, as that will be covered in the survey introduction section.

Additional Priorities

Additionally, proposals with the following elements will be prioritized.

- Include questions related to DCC's priority cancers and/or topics, including:
 - Breast cancer, colorectal cancer, lung cancer, and/or melanoma
 - Environmental risk factors for cancer
 - Strategic priorities of Precision Cancer Prevention, Next Generation Immunotherapies, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Foundational Cancer Research, and/or Clinical Trials
- Have plans to use the data for:
 - Grant application(s),
 - Peer-reviewed publication(s), and/or
 - Intervention development, deployment, or evaluation to improve cancer-related outcomes
- Represent a high-quality submission, including the listed questions and response options.
 - Questions have been previously validated, as appropriate and feasible

How to Apply

Proposal Components

Proposals must include the following components:

1. Name and contact information (organization/department, address, phone, email) for:
 - a. Proposal leader
 - b. Other team members
2. Cancer topic(s) addressed by the survey questions
3. A brief description of how the data from the survey questions will be used
4. List of up to 10 proposed questions, including:
 - a. Question wording
 - b. Response options
 - c. Logic branching instructions (as applicable)
5. If questions have not been previously validated, a brief description why unvalidated questions are needed

Submission Process

Proposals should be emailed as a Word or PDF attachment and directed to

DCC.Community.Outreach@dartmouth.edu. Proposals are due by 11:59 pm (Eastern) on 10/1/2025.

Proposal Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed by DCC's COE team and advisors from DCC leadership. They will select up to three proposals. Applicants will be notified of their proposal acceptance by 10/17/2025.

Next Steps for Selected Proposals

Refining Survey Questions

As needed, DCC's COE team will collaborate with selected applicants to refine the proposed questions before the survey is fielded.

Receiving Survey Data

Selected applicants will receive a dataset via Excel or CSV file containing deidentified data for their survey questions, along with respondent demographics. We anticipate providing the dataset within 30 days of concluding the survey, approximately April 2026. The COE team will be responsible for collecting, monitoring, and storing the full dataset.

Publications Using Survey Data

Selected applicants have first right of refusal to publish their findings, and we encourage collaboration with DCC's COE team. Should teams decide against publication, DCC's COE team reserves the right to utilize the data for publication purposes.

Published documents resulting from the survey will be required to acknowledge the appropriate resources provided by DCC; acknowledgement wording will be provided to selected applicants.

Poster Presentation Opportunity

Selected applicants will have the opportunity to present their findings via a poster presentation at the Annual DCC Scientific Retreat, if they would like to. The Scientific Retreat is free, and posters submitted by the stated deadline will be printed by DCC at no cost to the survey team.

Timeline

- **October 1, 2025:** Proposals are due to DCC.Community.Outreach@dartmouth.edu by 11:59 pm (Eastern).
- **October 17, 2025:** Applicants are notified of proposal acceptance.
- **October 20 – November 14, 2025:** Questions are collaboratively refined, as needed, by applicants, DCC's COE team, and UNH Survey Center.
- **February – March 2026:** Survey is conducted.
- **April 2026:** Anticipated timeframe when de-identified survey data will be provided to proposal teams.
- **February 2027:** Selected applicants have the opportunity to present a poster at DCC's Annual Scientific Retreat, if they would like to.

Contact & Support

Applicants are welcome to discuss their ideas with DCC's COE team prior to submitting. We are happy to help applicants shape their proposals. Questions, comments, and suggestions can be directed to DCC.Community.Outreach@dartmouth.edu.

About DCC's Population Health Needs Assessment Survey

Survey Format

The survey will be conducted online using Qualtrics.

Sample/Population for Survey

We anticipate our 2026 survey sample to be similar to our 2022 survey sample, which included 1,700 adults, of whom:

- About 1,000 were from NH,
- About 700 were from VT, and
- About 9% (n= 152) were cancer survivors.

For more information on our 2022 survey sample, please see Table 1 of [this publication](#).

Recruitment

DCC partners with the UNH Survey Center to conduct the survey using UNH's Green Mountain Panel (VT) and Granite State Panel (NH). UNH has established these survey panels by randomly-selecting landline and cell phone numbers from across NH and VT and inviting those residents to participate in ongoing research survey panels. Those interested who are year-round, adult residents of NH and VT and who provide an email address are invited to join the panel. Panel members will receive an email invitation to participate in DCC's survey, along with several reminders.

Population Representativeness

To ensure population representativeness, survey data will be weighted by age, gender, educational attainment, and region of state against the most recent population data available through the U.S. Census Bureau, in addition to political party registration and past presidential voting behavior.

Topics Included

Data collected from survey respondents will include the following topics; applicants should avoid proposing duplicative survey questions.

- **Demographics:** ZIP code (to classify rural/urban), age, sex, race, ethnicity, educational attainment, income, marital status, employment, home ownership, adults in household, children in household, years lived in state, state moved from (if applicable)
- **Health history:** personal history of cancer, height, weight
- **Social drivers of health:** insurance status, financial satisfaction, food insecurity, access to primary care, financial barriers to care
- **Cancer knowledge, attitudes, & beliefs:** cancer risk perception, knowledge of cancer screening guidelines, fatalistic beliefs toward cancer prevention
- **Cancer prevention/risk behaviors:** sun safety, physical activity, alcohol consumption, cigarette smoking, HPV vaccination
- **Cancer screening behaviors** (age- and sex- specific): breast, cervical, colorectal, lung cancer screenings
- **Cancer information seeking behaviors:** history of seeking cancer information, usual sources of cancer information, confidence in accessing cancer information
- **Social/community context:** environmental risks/worries

If you need more details on specific questions to be asked, please email

DCC.Community.Outreach@dartmouth.edu.

Timeframe for Deployment and Expected Data

We anticipate the survey will be deployed between February – March 2026. Selected applicants will receive de-identified data from their survey questions, along with respondent demographic data within 30 days of concluding the survey (approximately April 2026).

IRB Oversight

DCC's COE team and the UNH Survey Center take full responsibility for all Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals required for this survey and will provide the IRB approval letter(s) to selected applicants for their files.