

Promoting Equity in Cancer Research: CRCHD's Data-Driven Strategy for Reducing Disparities

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Data sharing is a powerful catalyst for advancing cancer research. The Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD), an essential component of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), plays a crucial role in addressing the unequal impact of cancer within our society.

CRCHD consistently champions programs aimed at reaching underserved communities to address cancer health disparities and is at the forefront of informing community-focused strategies. A notable initiative, the Connecting Underrepresented Populations to Clinical Trials (CUSP2CT) program, is dedicated to reducing disparities in cancer care by implementing culturally tailored outreach and educational interventions to enhance the participation of underrepresented populations in NCI-supported clinical trials. To support this effort, CRCHD has entrusted the U24 Data, Evaluation, and Coordinating Center (DECC), under the oversight of Program Director [Dr. Whitney Barfield Steward](#).

The primary objective of the DECC is to bolster the CUSP2CT program, specifically designed to increase referrals to NCI-supported clinical trials among underrepresented racial and ethnic (R/E) minority populations, who bear significantly higher cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality rates across various cancer types compared to Non-Hispanic Whites. The DECC plays a pivotal role in underpinning the data and evaluation aspects of the CUSP2CT Grantee Site program, which encompasses project management, data administration, and analysis for the U01 sites. The U01 sites are managed by the Program Director [Dr. Sandra San Miguel](#). In this capacity, the DECC spearheads collaborative efforts to define shared metrics and measures for program evaluation, identify effective interventions, and provide recommendations grounded in data analysis from evaluative efforts such as interviews and focus group qualitative data. The DECC ensures a consistent inflow of data elements, including the qualitative information, from the U01 sites. The DECC also plays an integral role in streamlining data collection and management across the CUSP2CT program to expedite evidence generation and the swift dissemination of methodologies and tools. Additionally, it takes the lead in promoting standardization and interoperability in practice and research. The DECC actively supports manuscript development and publication, as well as the sharing of findings with key stakeholders and the broader community.

In summary, the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD) and the U24 Data, Evaluation, and Coordinating Center (DECC) are driving vital progress in the fight against cancer disparities. Through their unwavering commitment to data-driven strategies and community-focused initiatives, they are paving the way for a more equitable future in cancer research and care.