



Filling research gaps related to environmental exposures & cancer risks



CEECCR members and guests at the CEECCR Annual Meeting 2025

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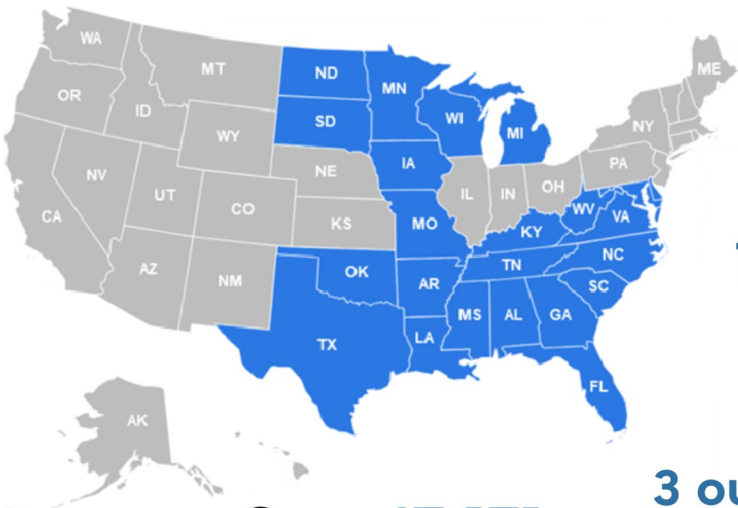
Funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), NIH, DHHS



CEECR Highlights and Impacts



Building new cohorts to advance cancer and the environment research



1 in 4 participants identify as men



3 out of 5 participants are younger than 50



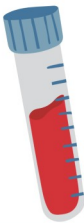
4 out of 5 participants come from metro counties

Over **47,171** participants joined between December 2021 and July 2026

CEECR participants have contributed...



12,733 Urine Samples



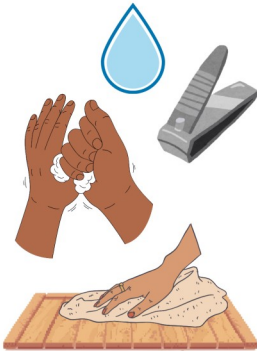
11,514 Blood Samples



13,567 Buccal or Saliva Samples



18,498 Wristbands



Other samples collected by only one cohort (STRIVE): water, hand wipes, soil, and floor wipes (house dust); (MI-CARES): toenails; (10KFS): radon test kits

...to help advance cancer research

CEECR in the Community

A core goal of the CEECR program is to recruit participants from populations often less represented in previous research studies. A key to making this work is partnering with communities we aim to serve. Each cohort is working hard to reach these communities and those living in environmental “hot spots” to continue to share information regarding CEECR, environmental exposures and cancer risk.



10KFS Study Staff at the University of Minnesota Cancer Survivorship Conference Saturday, April 11, 2026

10KFS—The 10,000 Families Study The 10,000 Families Study’s presence in the community to engage potential participants continues with numerous events, including CrossPoint Church, the University of Minnesota Cancer Survivorship Conference, the Mujeres Latinas Unidas MN meeting, and the Unity in the Community Event sponsored by the Richfield Police Department. On April 23, 2026, 10KFS convened its quarterly meeting with Community Advisory Board members and discussed PFAS, featuring a presentation by Dr. Alex Bogdan from the Minnesota Department of Health. 10KFS has reached exciting benchmarks, including a 70% Radon kit return rate in 2026, nearly 2,000 wristbands collected, and approaching 2,000 Health Visits completed. 10KFS is exploring new strategies for recruitment to the cohort. One strategy that has recently been implemented involves using MyChart to invite eligible participants who receive care through their health system partner, Fairview Health Services. To date 10KFS has invited 3,750 individuals and 5.5% have indicated they are interested in learning more. 10KFS plans to invite an additional 9,000 individuals in 2026.

SEHS—The Southern Environmental Health Study The SEHS study is excited to announce that they were awarded a grant from the VoLo Foundation to study potential effects of environmental exposures on the human body. [The VoLo Foundation](#) is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating global impact through science-based climate solutions, education enhancement, and health improvement initiatives. The new funding will allow SEHS to measure more wristband and blood samples. SEHS is also excited to share that 30 to 39 year olds can now join the SEHS study (was 40-70). In March 2026, SEHS sent updates to participants and their study partners on their progress. All of the SEHS progress updates can be found on the SEHS website [here](#).



SEHS staff members and one of their Community Advisory Board (CAB) members - Candace - at a community event - Candace was featured as a spotlight in the SEHS Spring 2026 Progress Update



Sandra and Pastor Chris

STRIVE—The Southern Liver Health Study

STRIVE’s community engagement coordinator, Linda Riggins, conducted a series of ambassador training events this past spring. STRIVE ambassadors are community members who share information about the study with others - more information on STRIVE’s ambassadors can be found [here](#). During the course of these trainings, about 20 ambassadors learned how to spot and prevent coercion in research and how to explain the goals of the STRIVE study. The ambassadors also got to know one another and learn more about the communities they are from. The STRIVE team has had a busy spring working with churches, nonprofits, and other community partners to share information about their research. Pictured right is Pastor Chris Jones, from the Ship of Zion Church shaking hands with one of the STRIVE study phlebotomists Sandra Yachi (helps with blood draws). Their church regularly welcomes STRIVE staff and participants to use the church space. The STRIVE study also recently lowered the minimum recruitment age to enroll in their study. Those ages 30 to 75 are now eligible to join in the fight against liver cancer!

MI-CARES—The Michigan Cancer and Research on the Environment Study

The fourth issue of the **MI-CARES Bulletin** came out in April 2026 highlighting recruitment totals, the MI-CARES webinar series, and an infographic on drinking alcohol and cancer risk. MI-CARES is excited to partner with Learfield to reach sports fans and invite more potential research participants to the MI-CARES study.

Translating Science Into Action

Webinars

CEECECR cohorts develop and participate in webinars and events to engage participants and share scientific knowledge

- On April 29, **MI-CARES** hosted Matt Simcik, PhD to talk about “PFAS in Groundwater: What do we know, and how can we remove it?” All four cohorts worked together to spread the word to their participants about the webinar opportunity. The webinar invite was sent to over 16,000 people! Each webinar includes a 15-minute presentation followed by 30 minutes of question and answer.
- In February, Jackie Goodrich, PhD presented on “Firefighter Health: Examining the links between occupational exposures and cancer.”
- Archived CEECECR webinars and podcasts can be found on our CEECECR website under [resources > webinars](#). Over 18 webinars and 5 podcasts to explore!



Matt Simcik



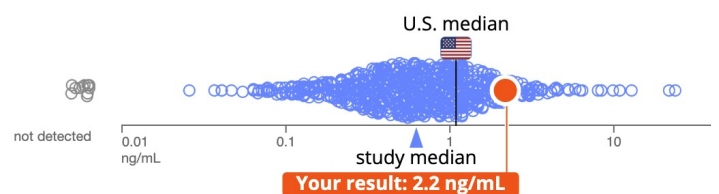
Jackie Goodrich

Report Backs

Sharing results back to participants helps to improve awareness of environmental health threats and increases engagement

- On March 16, 2026, **SEHS** shared an Annual Progress Update with participants and others. The update included information on enrollment numbers by state and a snapshot with information collected so far from SEHS study questionnaires. The update also focused on retention with reminders about the steps needed to join the SEHS study, and updates on their follow up survey.
- Experts from the **STRIVE** team recorded and distributed a **video discussing blood PFAS results** and what they mean for the STRIVE study participants. The video can be seen [here](#). The video has already been viewed over 300 times! This video will allow all STRIVE participants, regardless of location, schedule, and availability, to access this important information.
- Sharing environmental test results can help people take action to reduce their exposures.** All participants who have successfully completed radon testing for **10KFS** have received tailored report back of results, and the DERBI (Digital Exposure Report-Back Interface) portal for return of PFAS results has gone live this summer!

PFHxS (perfluorohexane sulfonic acid)



Using DERBI, 10KFS participants can see how they compare to others in the 10KFS study and in the United States

Infographics and Lay Abstracts

CEECECR works to translate science into language for everyone to learn and take action



Scan the QR code
to explore CEECECR **infographics**



Scan the QR code
to explore CEECECR **lay abstracts**

CEECECR
Cohorts for Environmental
Exposures and Cancer Risks

Early-Onset Cancer

What is early-onset cancer?

- Early-onset cancers are cancers diagnosed in people aged 18 to 49 that are more commonly diagnosed in older adults.¹
- Cancers that usually occurred in people over 50 – like colon, breast, uterine, kidney, and pancreatic cancer – are also now becoming more common in younger adults.¹
- Many early-onset cancers are increasing in both women and men, but women account for 2 out of 3 of all cancers diagnosed in adults under 50 – driven primarily by breast cancer.²

- The CEECECR Coordinating Center has created **30 lay abstracts** for publications citing CEECECR funding!

Scientific Presentations & Conferences

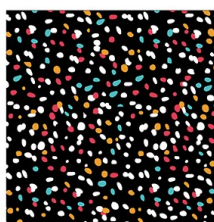
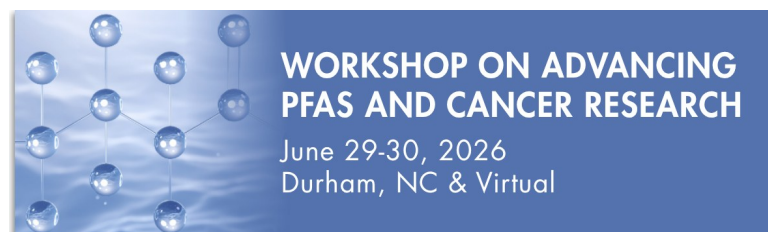
CEECR consortium members continue to attend conferences and talks related to environmental exposures and cancer risk to share updates on the work of the consortium!

Look for CEECR members at the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) conference in Munich August 30 - September 2, 2026.

- *"Using passive silicone wristband samplers to quantify exposure to semi-volatile organic compounds in Minnesota families"* (Post-doctoral fellow Cassie Clark from 10KFS)
- *"Predictors of PFAS Exposure in a Family-based Cohort Study in Minnesota"* (Jen Poynter, one of the 10KFS Principal Investigators)
- *"Exposome- wide Assessment of Environmental Exposures and Biomarkers in a U.S. Population"* (Wei Zheng, one of the SEHS Principal Investigators as part of a poster session called Exposome unveiled 2)

Other recent presentations:

- The CEECR Cohorts presented at NCI's Environmental Epidemiology and Cancer Webinar Series. The Environmental Epidemiology and Cancer [webinar series](#) highlights novel cancer research strategies and needs focused on environmental exposures and cancer.
- Megan Bruns, an MPH student in Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, received third place at the Research Day Poster Competition for her work on 10KFS. Her project, *"Determinants of Radon Testing in Minnesota,"* found that knowledge about radon was the primary determinant of successful radon testing in 10KFS.
- Ashley Jowell, a Duke resident, and Eghosa Adodo, a Duke medical student working with the STRIVE team presented posters at Digestive Disease Week in Chicago, IL May 2nd through the 5th. Ashley's poster was titled: *"Exploring the Impact of Social and Environmental Vulnerabilities on Liver Disease: A Southern Liver Health Study (STRIVE) Cohort Study."* Eghosa's poster was titled: *"Urinary Cannabinoid Metabolite Levels in Cirrhosis: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of the Southern Liver Health Study (STRIVE)."*
- SEHS presented their study poster at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center's (VICC) 27th Annual Scientific Symposium on May 13, 2026.
- Kristen Malecki from the CEECR Coordinating Center team presented on "PFAS Exposures in Population Based Cohorts - Opportunities for Advancing Translational Research" as part of a combined session on Pooling PFAS Biomarker Data during Day 2 of a collaborative NIEHS and NCI Workshop on Advancing PFAS and Cancer Research June 29 and 30, 2026.
- NCI hosted a Trans-NIH Workshop on [Micro\[nano\]plastic Measurement for Population Studies](#) July 9-10, coordinated by Somdat Mahabir - NCI Program Director for CEECR.



Trans-NIH Workshop on Micro[nano]plastic Measurement for Population Studies

JULY 9-10, 2026
NCI Shady Grove & Virtual

Mark your calendars:

CEECR Annual Meeting 2026

December 3-4, 2026 at Emory University,
Rollins School of Public Health (and virtual)

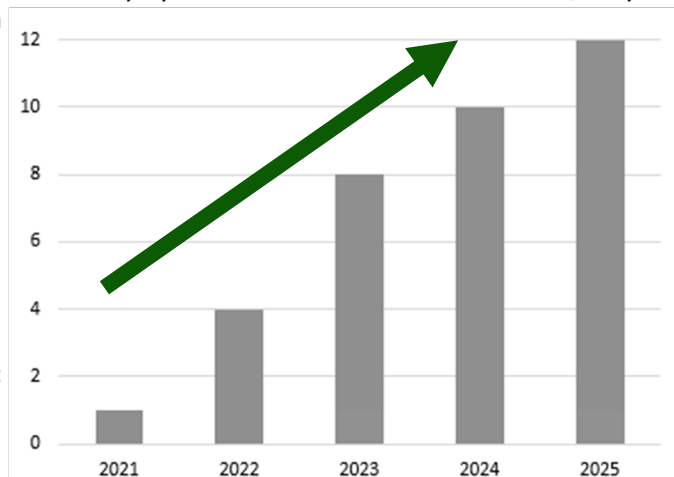


View these posters on
the CEECR website!

New CEECR Publications

Understanding the role of the tissue environment is key to improving how cancer risks are evaluated.

The MI-CARES Team has [published a paper](#) listing CEECR grant funding titled: *Rethinking the microenvironment's role in chemical-induced malignancy*. MI-CARES researchers and an international team of experts built from a symposium presented last year at the 2025 Society of Toxicology meeting in this recent paper. In how we are understanding cancer, researchers are changing how they view its development. Instead of viewing cancer as caused only by DNA mutations in individual cells, they emphasize the important role of the surrounding tissue environment in helping tumors develop. The team explains that exposure to harmful chemicals can change this local environment in different ways depending on the tissue. These changes may include inflammation, new blood vessel growth, structural changes in tissue, and reduced immune responses that allow cancer cells to survive and grow. In their review, the team summarizes evidence showing how these environment-related changes contribute to many types of cancer and describe how such conditions can push cells to grow uncontrollably, adapt more easily, and even take on stem cell-like properties. Finally, they highlight tools scientists can use to study the links between chemical exposures, tissue changes, and cancer development. **Citation:** Bisson WH, Currie RA, Lim EL, Mlynarczyk C, Tokar EJ, Colacci A, & Colacino J A (2026). Rethinking the microenvironment's role in chemical-induced malignancy. *Toxicological Sciences : An Official Journal of the Society of Toxicology*, 209(2), kfaf174. <https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfaf174>



CEECR has already yielded 35 articles across 28 journals

PFAS may affect colorectal cancer risk, but we need more human longitudinal studies.

The STRIVE Team has [published a paper](#) listing CEECR grant funding titled: *A scoping review on per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and colorectal cancer: Evidence from in vitro, animal, and epidemiological studies*. The authors summarize what is known about the relationship between PFAS and colorectal cancer. The researchers found that, in studies done on colorectal cancer cells in a lab, PFAS seemed to promote cancer growth and spread, while animal and human studies did not show a consistent relationship between PFAS and colorectal cancer. However, these studies had several important weaknesses that could explain mixed results. This study review tells us that PFAS can influence processes in our body that may affect colorectal cancer risk, but current evidence in humans is limited. We need more research that studies people for many years to see if PFAS really does affect their risk of getting colorectal cancer over time. **Citation:** Paudel D, Li H, Holzhausen EA, Young N, Platz EA, Walker DI, Liang D, Aung M, Goodrich J A, Setiawan VW, Marchand LL, Huang BZ, Conti DV, Chatzi L, & Alderete TL (2025). A scoping review on per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and colorectal cancer: Evidence from in vitro, animal, and epidemiological studies. *Environment International*, 203, 109778. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2025.109778>

Researchers can improve the accuracy of studies that use EHR data if they adjust for how patients are selected into care systems.

The MI-CARES Team has [published a paper](#) listing CEECR grant funding titled: *A doubly robust framework for addressing outcome-dependent selection bias in multi-cohort EHR studies*. Electronic health records, also known as EHR are a valuable tool for scientists looking to understand risk factors for patients with cancer, but this data can often be skewed depending on which specific clinic a person visits. To solve this problem, the research team developed a new mathematical method called JAIPW, or Joint Augmented Inverse Probability Weighted method that blends data from multiple clinics with national medical records to fix these hidden biases. When tested on real-world data, this new approach provided much more accurate estimates of cancer risk that closely match true national trends. This powerful new tool will help researchers around the world analyze health records more accurately, leading to a better understanding of how cancer impacts different groups of people. **Citation:** Kundu R, Shi X, Kleinsasser M, Fritsche LG, Salvatore M, & Mukherjee B. (2026). A doubly robust framework for addressing outcome-dependent selection bias in multi-cohort EHR studies. *Biostatistics (Oxford, England)*, 27(1), kxag001. <https://doi.org/10.1093/biostatistics/kxag001>



See all CEECR publications here!



The CEECR Publication Policy & Collaborative Concept Proposal Form can be found here.

CEECR Working Groups and Resource Development

Harmonization Working Group

Core data elements for the consortium

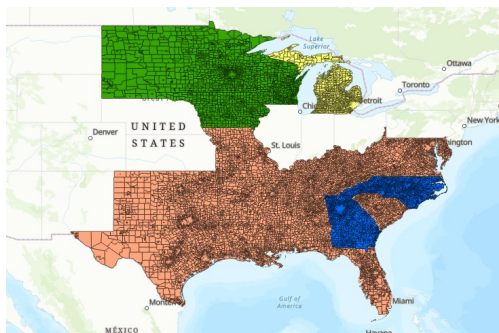
- The Harmonization Working Group met in February to discuss changes to the CEECR Collaborative Questionnaire - version 2 now includes questions about GLP-1s, pouches or pods use, and colorectal cancer screening. Updates have also been made to the priority levels tied to some questions no longer asked by the cohorts.
- The group is supportive of projects that support efficiency for collaborative projects like common protocols for linkages
- The group has completed updates to the collaborative questionnaire, and will work on updating Table 1. The CC supports the efforts to harmonize variables of interest, creation of a comprehensive data dictionary tied to each collaborative project idea, and mapping CEECR data using OMOP guidance.



Geospatial Working Group

Creating a geospatial protocol for the consortium

- The group meets regularly to work on a water quality and CEECR paper idea, and to discuss PLACES and air pollution projects.
- The team is moving forward with water quality descriptive work (e.g., how many CEECR participants can be linked to a municipal water supply?).



Wristbands and Biospecimens

- In February, the group provided updates on their methylation plans and work completed so far to discuss opportunities for collaborative projects. SEHS is working on a pilot project that would help the cohorts in harmonization of methylation data in the future.
- STRIVE's Annie DiFrank presented in April on the STRIVE's methods for analyzing the "imprintome" through their methylation arrays.
- The group met in May to discuss a potential collaborative pilot project they could add to their current methylation work.
- 10KFS is working with SEHS to draft a proposal for a collaborative wristband "how-to" paper.
- In July, each cohort will provide information to the CEECR Coordinating Center on their materials collected so far from participants.
- Heather Stapleton's lab at Duke University has completed extraction of the wristbands for the wristband collaborative project.



Recruitment & Retention Working Group

Sharing best practices, successes and challenges

- At the Annual Meeting, the group requested "heart sharing" sessions be incorporated into each Recruitment and Retention meeting. Although the cohort studies are still heavily recruiting new participants, the group is now more focused on retention with the completion and rollout of their follow-up surveys.
- The group is interested in sharing lessons learned in a paper on recruitment in modern cohorts.
- Some actionable suggestions for recruitment and retention include: having paper surveys available as an option for participants, having male staff at recruitment events to invite men into the studies, sending out automated reminders (using REDCap, MyChart, or other methods); calling participants to follow up, making sure participants always can easily access study information and materials, contacting people at their preferred time of day.

Policies and Procedures for Accessing and Using CEECR Data:

- 1) Contact the Coordinating Center
- 2) If you are a CEECR investigator interested in more than one cohorts' data - complete a Collaborative Concept Proposal and Data Request form to be reviewed by the Steering Committee
- 3) If you are an external investigator or only interested in data from one cohort, then the Coordinating Center can connect researchers with individual cohorts to learn more about their data and access

In order to access CEECR Consortium data, CEECR members and their institutions must agree to, and abide by, the CEECR Data Sharing Policy.

News & Upcoming Events

CEECR Investigator Awards

- We are proud to celebrate Professor Jen Poynter, PhD, on receiving the Distinguished McKnight University Professor honor in recognition of her exceptional contributions to the field.
- We are also proud to celebrate Bharat Thyagarajan, MD, PhD, on his appointment as the new Head of the University of Minnesota's Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology.
- Somdat Mahabir received the 2025 NIH Director's Award for work on the Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) cohorts.

CEECR News

- The 10KFS team and the rest of the CEECR Consortium warmly congratulate Lisa Peterson on her retirement and thank her sincerely for her impactful and enduring contributions! Dr. Peterson, has dedicated her career to understanding how environmental exposures and tobacco-related chemicals contribute to cancer risk, bringing decades of scientific expertise, leadership, and wisdom to the field of public health and cancer research.
- The CEECR Steering Committee has a new chair for 2026! Thank you to Alison Mondul from MI-CARES for leading this year's Steering Committee.
- Lisa Cadmus-Bertram has enjoyed stepping into her new role with the Coordinating Center team as a multiple principal investigator and new NCI point of contact. Lisa is a Professor of Kinesiology at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and a member of the Cancer Prevention and Control program at the UW Carbone Cancer Center. She holds a joint PhD in Epidemiology and Psychology from Yale University, has over 20 years of research experience in cancer risk and survivorship, including 14 years of NIH funding as PI. Areas of special interest include health behavior, rural health, and wearable technologies.



CEECR Joins the NCI Cohort Consortium

All four of the active CEECR cohort studies - 10KFS, SEHS, STRIVE, and MI-CARES have joined the National Cancer Institute's Cohort Consortium. The NCI Cohort Consortium membership is international in scope with cohorts in North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. It includes investigators responsible for more than 77 high-quality cohorts who are studying large and diverse populations. Members include cohorts with at least 5,000 participants enrolled with baseline risk factor data and those with cancer-related outcomes data (i.e. survival information) on at least 400 participants. Cohorts must be willing to share data and actively participate in consortium activities. CEECR is also involved in many of the NCI Cohort Consortium working groups, which includes a working group on Interoperability. Click [here](#) for more information about the NCI Cohort Consortium.

Save the date for this year's NCI Cohort Consortium Annual Meeting

The 2026 NCI Cohort Consortium Annual Meeting will be held September 24-25, 2026 at the NCI Shady Grove in Rockville, MD with an in-person/virtual format. Additionally, virtual-only project group meetings will be held during the week of September 18 or as in-person/hybrid meetings September 21-23.



Upcoming NIH Workshop

All four CEECR cohorts will present at the upcoming NIH Virtual [Workshop](#) Community Engagement to Build Trust in Science and Enhance Environmental Epidemiology Cancer Research on August 24, 2026. Each cohort will take part in *Session 2: Lessons Learned in Community Engagement from Environmental Epidemiology Cancer Cohorts*.

