

## James & Esther King Biomedical Research Program

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*Department of Epidemiology and Public Health  
University of Miami*

*2006 Program*

*Team Science Project  
(2-year project)*

**Project Title:** Reducing the Burden of Tobacco-Associated Cancers in Florida

**Project Summary:** More than 582,000 Floridians currently suffer from tobacco-associated health problems such as cancer, heart disease, and lung disease. Over 12,000 Floridians will die this year from smoking-related cancers, which account for more than two-thirds of all cancer deaths in Florida. Recent studies by this team of researchers from the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center (UM/Sylvester) identified very high rates of tobacco-related cancers in some areas of Florida. Using new statistical tools to identify tobacco-associated cancer clusters (areas where cancer rates are higher than in adjacent areas), counties in northeast Florida were found to have high rates of new cases of tobacco-related cancers, and counties in the panhandle were found to have high rates of tobacco-related cancer deaths. This project lays the groundwork for testing three levels of interventions to reduce tobacco-associated cancer risk in these counties by: 1) reducing tobacco use (primary prevention); 2) increasing early detection of cancer (secondary prevention); and 3) ensuring access to state-of-the-art treatment (tertiary prevention). First, we will examine the data on tobacco-related cancers and on tobacco use to identify areas of the state that experience the highest rates of both. Using these data, the research team of key public health and tobacco control stakeholders, researchers and clinician-scientists from UM/Sylvester, Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS), and the Florida Department of Health will identify the geographic regions in greatest need of each level of intervention. We will then develop and submit to the National Cancer Institute a Program Project grant to implement and evaluate a comprehensive intervention strategy to reduce the high tobacco-associated cancer burden in Florida. The three aims and projects for the research are: 1) to identify areas of Florida in greatest need of primary prevention by mapping county-level smoking prevalence data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and the Florida Youth Tobacco Survey; 2) to identify areas of Florida in the greatest need of secondary and tertiary prevention by using spatial analysis methods that will illustrate tobacco-associated cancer clusters; and 3) to identify areas of Florida in need of secondary and tertiary prevention by using data from FCDS and from the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration to map late-stage presentation of tobacco-associated cancers and to evaluate access to state-of-the-art medical care for tobacco-related cancers. A Biostatistics and Data Management Core, and an Outreach, Education and Dissemination Core will support all projects.