Stanford Cancer Institute - Catchment Area – Community Outreach

The Stanford Cancer Institute (SCI) is one of a small number of NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the country. NCI-designated centers occupy an important role in their communities, including performing research and educational activities relevant to the unique populations they serve. The "catchment area" is a term used by the NCI to mean the geographic area in which a Cancer Center focuses its research, education, and patient care efforts.

The SCI's catchment area includes a population of 7.8 million people in 10 counties across four distinct regions: Peninsula/South Bay (Santa Clara, San Mateo, Santa Cruz), East Bay (Alameda, Contra Costa), Salinas Valley, (Monterey, San Benito), and San Joaquin Valley (San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced). Through a Community Health Needs Assessment, the SCI regularly gathers quantitative and qualitative information about the impact of cancer in our communities. This information is utilized to examine the factors related to cancer and identify issues for action that will help reduce the burden of cancer. In the catchment area eight cancers (breast, lung, colon, prostate, pancreas, liver, lymphoma, and melanoma) stand out as important contributors to the cancer problem.

SCI Catchment Area and percent of patients

The SCI recognizes that disease pattern, clinical presentation and therapeutic response can vary dramatically based on several factors including race/ethnicity, ancestral background, socioeconomic status, and gender. SCI members are engaged in addressing these challenging issues to ensure that treatments, interventions, and prevention strategies will be relevant to all populations.

A SCI's Office of Community Engagement was formed to organize and expand the SCI's efforts to promote health equity, with a focus on four pillars: understanding the needs and priorities of our diverse catchment area, developing and sustaining bidirectional partnerships, increasing representation of minorities in clinical trials, and translating research into practices and policies.