

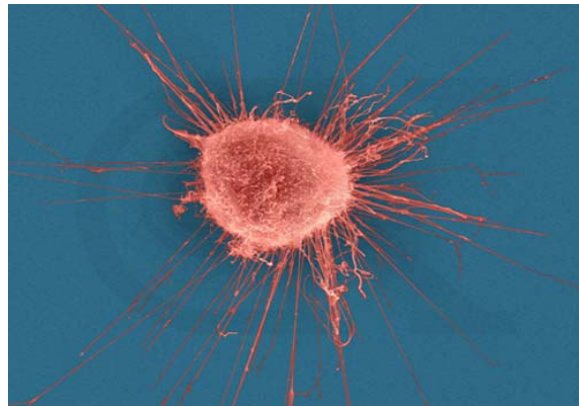


## ***WHY NEW YORK STATE NEEDS TO PREVENT CANCER AND HOW YOU CAN HELP***

### **The Problem**

Nearly one in two men and more than one in three women in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in his or her lifetime. Cancer is now the leading cause of death for individuals under age 85. In 2005, over 1.3 million Americans were diagnosed with cancer. As is true for the United States as a whole, cancers of the lung, colon and rectum, breast, and prostate account for the majority of cancers in New York State, approximately 56%.

There is no part of the state immune from the scourge of cancer. In 2004, nearly 37,000 New Yorkers died of cancer, and as the population grows older, these numbers are expected to increase. We can expect over 100,000 new cancer cases in New York this year. Cancer develops from a complicated combination of multiple exposures. Although



individual behaviors such as smoking, diet and exercise can increase chances of developing cancer, many of us are unknowingly exposed to numerous carcinogens everyday. Over 6 million pounds of carcinogens were released into the environment of New York State, according to the federal Toxic Release Inventory. These chemicals are found in our air, water, and soil, as well as in the materials and products in our homes and workplaces.

A variety of political-economic reasons explain why these products and the chemicals of which they consist remain on the market. While reforming federal chemical policy should be our ultimate goal, New York State must, in the meantime, take a strong stand of its own against carcinogens in the home and work environment.

## How You Can Help

There are three things you might do to help prevent cancer in New York.

**First**, read CEC's new Cancer Prevention Report available free of charge at [cectoctic.org](http://cectoctic.org). This fact sheet may also be downloaded and reproduced.

**Second**, you can support our proposed Executive Order (EO) to require New York State agencies to purchase green services and products so as to reduce the volume of carcinogens in their workplaces, and in our communities. See the draft EO in Appendix B of the report. Send an email or fax to Governor Spitzer from our website urging him to issue the EO as soon as possible.

**Third**, you can support our other proposed Executive Order to actively promote safer alternatives to dangerous chemicals in New York State. This EO instructs NYS Departments of Health and Department of Environmental Conservation to begin reporting on toxic chemical use in New York, and to plan for the adoption of safer substitutes. See the draft EO in Appendix B of the report. Send an email or fax to Governor Spitzer from our website asking him to issue the EO as soon as possible.

### Citizens' Environmental Coalition

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Citizens' Environmental Coalition is a statewide environmental health organization consisting of 110 groups and 14,000 individual members working to eliminate pollution and to protect human and ecosystem health by serving as the nexus for local communities, state policies, and national collaborations

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

—Margaret Mead