



## NEWS RELEASE

### ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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## ADPH offers cancer screening information at county health departments

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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In recognition of April as National Cancer Control Month the Alabama Department of Public Health encourages all Alabamians to be informed about different types of cancers for which they might be at risk and to be screened when appropriate.

"Friend to Friend Cancer Check" cards will be available at county health departments across the state during the month of April. The card offers a brief overview of the various types of cancer screening tests available and lists which tests you should have depending on your age and gender. The card also encourages everyone to begin a dialogue with his or her healthcare provider about cancer prevention and early detection.

"The 'Friend to Friend' card is also perforated so it can be easily torn in half and the information passed along to a friend or loved one," says Brooke Thorington, public education coordinator for the Cancer Prevention Division. "People often ask what types of tests are available for cancer, and the card gives an overview of the most common tests performed."

The card offers screening information for breast, cervical, colorectal and prostate cancers. These are the four leading causes of new cancer cases (excluding lung cancer) that can be prevented or detected early when more and better treatment options are available.

Breast and cervical cancer screening services are available to women ages 40 to 64 that meet certain income guidelines and are under or uninsured. To see if you qualify for these services, through the Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program call 1-877-252-3324.

Also, April 18-24 has been designated National Minority Cancer Awareness Week. The week is dedicated to increasing cancer awareness and reducing cancer health disparities by promoting the importance of early detection and prevention among minorities.

The Deep South Network for Cancer Control, REACH 2010 and the American Cancer Society are sponsoring activities in Blackbelt counties to increase cancer control awareness among minorities. REACH 2010 (which stands for Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health by the year 2010) and the Deep South Network are both University of Alabama at Birmingham projects funded by the National Cancer Institute and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, respectively.

The Deep South Network, REACH 2010 and the American Cancer Society partner with the Cancer Prevention Division of the Alabama Department of Public Health, to educate communities about the importance of early detection for breast and cervical cancer and available screening resources for medically underserved populations.

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