

Cancer Prevention Study-3 (CPS-3) Introduction and Overview

The Department of Epidemiology & Surveillance Research of the American Cancer Society is recruiting a diverse group of approximately 500,000 adults for a new cancer research study, the Cancer Prevention Study (CPS)-3. ACS long term follow-up studies first began in the 1950's and have contributed significantly to tobacco-related research and to our understanding of obesity, diet, physical activity, hormone use, air pollution, and various other exposures in relation to cancer and other disease risk. This new CPS-3 study will pave the way for the next generation of research at the American Cancer Society and further advance our understanding of the factors (lifestyle, environmental, and genetic) that cause or prevent cancer. Through this study, we can work to eliminate cancer as a major health concern for future generations.

Overall Objective: To enroll a diverse group of 500,000 adult men and women between the ages of 30 and 65 years who have never been diagnosed with cancer (since we are studying the causes of cancer, we typically begin with a study population that is “cancer-free” and follow them over time). We are seeking to recruit a study group that is both geographically and racially/ethnically diverse. We also intend to collect a blood specimen at enrollment from all study participants, making CPS-3 an entirely unique resource in the United States.

Enrollment Process and Follow-up: Enrollment is a simple, two phase process. At the Relay For Life (RFL) event, interested and eligible participants will be asked to read and sign an informed consent form (this gives us permission to enroll the participant into the study), complete a brief survey (including contact information, demographics, and questions related to blood specimen collection), provide a waist measurement, and a small blood sample (similar to a doctor's visit). At home, participants will complete a full “baseline” survey to collect detailed information on lifestyle, behaviors, and medical/family history. For the next 20 or more years, we will “follow” CPS-3 participants to study factors that are associated with cancer occurrence or prevention. For the enrollees, this will mean completing mailed surveys every two years (survey information is kept strictly confidential and used for medical and statistical purposes only). We also will stay in touch with all CPS-3 members through a variety of mechanisms, including newsletters and emails.

Why Enroll at RFL events: Past ACS follow-up studies have relied on a partnership with field Volunteers to recruit study populations, and this partnership has proven to be very successful. For example, CPS-II was recruited when 77,000 American Cancer Society Volunteers individually enrolled 10-15 friends, family or co-workers into the study. Furthermore, RFL offers large groups of individuals in a common place for up to 24 hours; this will allow us to maximize the number of participants enrolled at any given time if we select events that are 1000+ participants or larger. The RFL community is also a very committed population both to ACS and more generally to cancer awareness (and this will be critical for maintaining high rates of follow-up; without which our study loses its scientific validity).

For more detailed information regarding CPS-3, please visit our website at www.cancer.org/cps3