

Advocacy Milestones



2001

2001
The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is founded.

2002
First Celebration on the Hill illustrates role of advocacy in the fight against cancer.
Delaware is first state to pass law prohibiting smoking in bars, restaurants and workplaces.

2003
Research funding doubled at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) after 5-year effort.

2004
Maine and Massachusetts implement smoke-free restaurant and bar laws.
ACS CAN event featuring Smokey Robinson sparks momentum for D.C. smoke-free law.

2005
Patient navigator legislation enacted to expand access to cancer prevention, early detection and treatment and to reduce disparities.
ACS CAN advocates for Montana to pass nation's first \$1/pack cigarette tax.

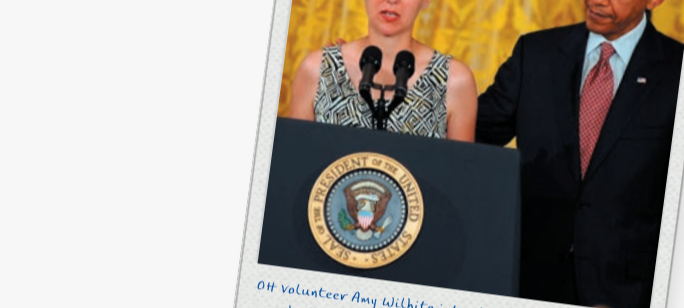
2006
Red Bra campaign protects coverage for mammograms and other cancer screenings.
ACS CAN establishes volunteer structure.
ACS CAN advocates for smoke-free public housing.
10,000 advocates at the 2nd Celebration on the Hill event urge Congress to make cancer a national priority.
Massachusetts passes precedent-setting health care reform ahead of federal health care law.

2007
The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) is reauthorized at a higher funding level, offering screening to underserved women.
ACS CAN conducts first-ever electoral work in early presidential primary states.
ACS and ACS CAN launch national access to care campaign.

2008
Fight Back Express travels across the U.S., gathering 100,000 signatures to make cancer a national priority.
Smoking rates reach record low, thanks to higher tobacco taxes, smoke-free laws and tobacco control programs.
New York is the first state to raise its tobacco tax by more than \$1.
Michelle's Law, named for the daughter of an ACS CAN volunteer, requires insurance companies to cover college students on medical leave for up to one year.



2009
The federal cigarette tax is raised for the first time since 1997 to \$1.01.
Following a decade of advocacy, the FDA is authorized to regulate the manufacturing, marketing and sale of tobacco products.
After 6 years of flat or reduced federal funding, Congress increases funding for cancer research and prevention.
CDC launches Colorectal Cancer Control Program in 29 states and tribes to increase screening rates for uninsured or underinsured low-income adults.



2010
ACS CAN brings the cancer patient voice to health care reform, leading to enactment of the Affordable Care Act, including 100+ patient protections critical to decreasing the cancer burden.

2011
NBCCEDP surpasses 10 million lifesaving screenings.
10th anniversary of ACS CAN
ACS CAN launches national campaign to prevent cancer research funding cuts.

2012
All ACS advocacy staff are aligned under ACS CAN, creating a more strategic organization pushing for public policy change nationwide.
ACS CAN urges Supreme Court to uphold patient protections in the Affordable Care Act; majority of the law is upheld.
ACS CAN launches palliative care campaign, illuminating the benefits of symptom management alongside disease treatment.

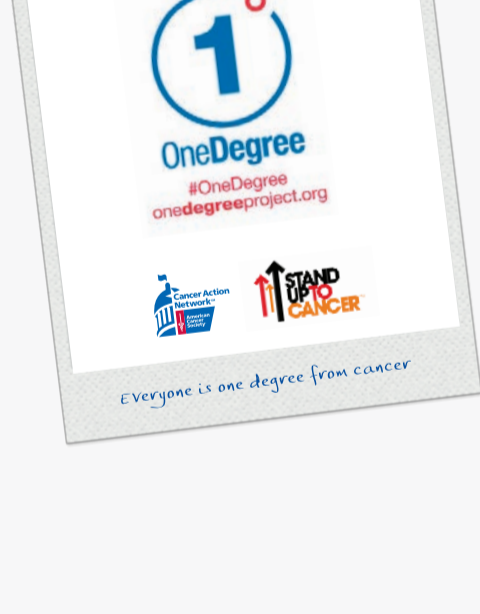


2013
The national average tobacco tax is more than double the tax in 2003.

2014
ACS CAN launches new advertising urging Congress to prioritize funding for cancer research.
Cancer patients can no longer be denied or charged more for health coverage based on health status or history in ACA-compliant plans.
ACS CAN begins state-by-state advocacy campaign to expand access to Medicaid for low-income parents and adults; 24 states expand in first year.

2015
ACS CAN partners with Stand Up To Cancer to launch campaign to increase NIH and NCI funding.

2016
FDA finalizes rule authorizing regulation of all tobacco products.
In partnership with the American Cancer Society, ACS CAN joins President Obama and then-Vice President Biden to launch National Cancer Moonshot to double the rate of progress against cancer.
Congress passes the 21st Century Cures Act, increasing NIH funding, prioritizing funding for the National Cancer Moonshot and creating the Oncology Center of Excellence at the FDA.
Hawaii is the first state to increase the minimum legal age of sale for tobacco products to 21.



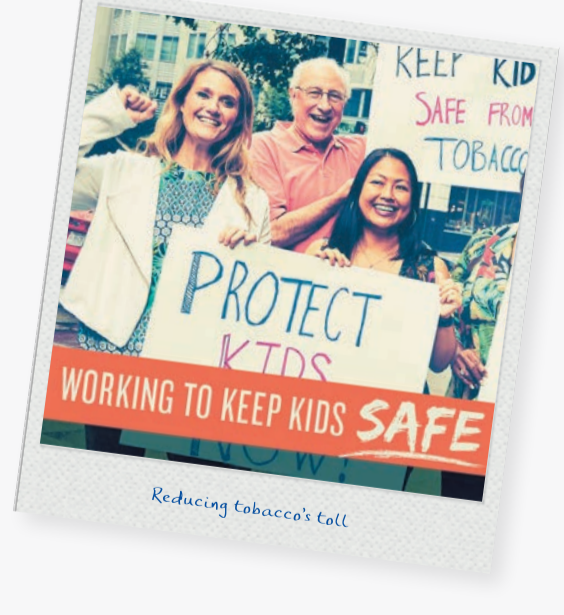
2017
ACS CAN successfully defeats repeal of the Affordable Care Act in Congress.
Tobacco industry forced to admit lying about the danger of cigarettes in TV and newspaper ads thanks to public health groups' lawsuit.
California becomes the first state to raise the cigarette tax by \$2/pack.

2018
One Degree goal of increasing NIH funding by \$6 billion and NCI funding by \$1 billion achieved.
Massachusetts creates a first-of-its-kind Office of Health Equity to address racial and ethnic health disparities across the state.
ACS CAN advocates for \$5.74 billion in state and local funding to support critical cancer programs.
Congress passes childhood cancer bill, increasing research funding and improving data collection.



2019
Public health advocates win lawsuit preventing FDA from delaying review of tobacco products.
Congress raises the legal age of sale of tobacco products to 21.

2020
Henrietta Lacks Enhancing Research Act is signed into law, promoting more diverse representation in cancer clinical trials.
ACS CAN lawsuit prompts FDA to issue final rule on graphic cigarette package warnings.
Massachusetts is the first state to prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products.
A decade of advocacy results in Congress passing a law to eliminate unexpected Medicare bills related to colonoscopies.



2021

