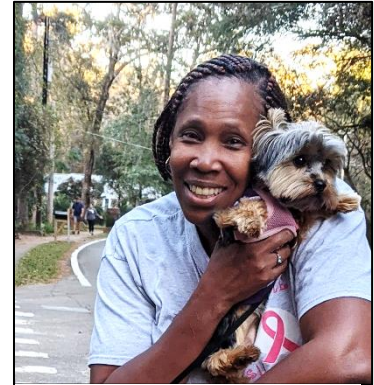


Priority Areas – Cancer

Throughout our lives, healthy cells in our bodies divide and replace themselves in a controlled fashion. [Cancer](#) starts when a cell is somehow altered so that it multiplies out of control. A tumor is a mass composed of a cluster of such abnormal cells.

- Most cancers form tumors, but not all tumors are cancerous.
- Benign, or noncancerous, tumors do not spread to other parts of the body, and do not create new tumors.
- Malignant, or cancerous, tumors crowd out healthy cells, interfere with body functions, and draw [nutrients](#) from body tissues.
- Cancers continue to grow and spread by direct extension or through a process called metastasis, where the malignant cells travel through the lymphatic or [blood](#) vessels -- eventually forming new tumors in other parts of the body.
- More than 100 types of [cancer](#) - cells multiply out of control, some form tumors and spread



*Home health care hero
Cassandra Wilkerson and
comfort pet Sasha. (Faith
Eidse photo)*

Resources

- Florida's [Cancer Registry page](#) - 100,000 new cases reported each year
- [United States Preventive Services Task Force \(USPSTF\)](#) - screening recommendations
- [American Cancer Society \(ACS\)](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) funds breast, cervical, colorectal research
- [National Cancer Institute \(NCI\)](#) - 1/3rd of most common cancers are due to lifestyles – poor diet, obesity, and lack of physical activity