

# Trends in Cancer-Related Information Seeking Among Cancer Survivors: 2003-2012

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## Background

- ❖ Informed cancer patients have better health outcomes and care experiences
- ❖ There have been significant changes in information availability over time
- ❖ Limited research exists that evaluates the ways in which information-seeking trends have evolved



## Data Source

- ❖ Data from five administrations of HINTS (2003, 2005, 2007, 2011, and 2012) were analyzed to examine information-seeking trends over time
- ❖ We specifically examined trends among:
  - ❖ Individuals with a personal history of cancer
  - ❖ Individuals with a family history
  - ❖ Individuals with no cancer history



## Data Analysis

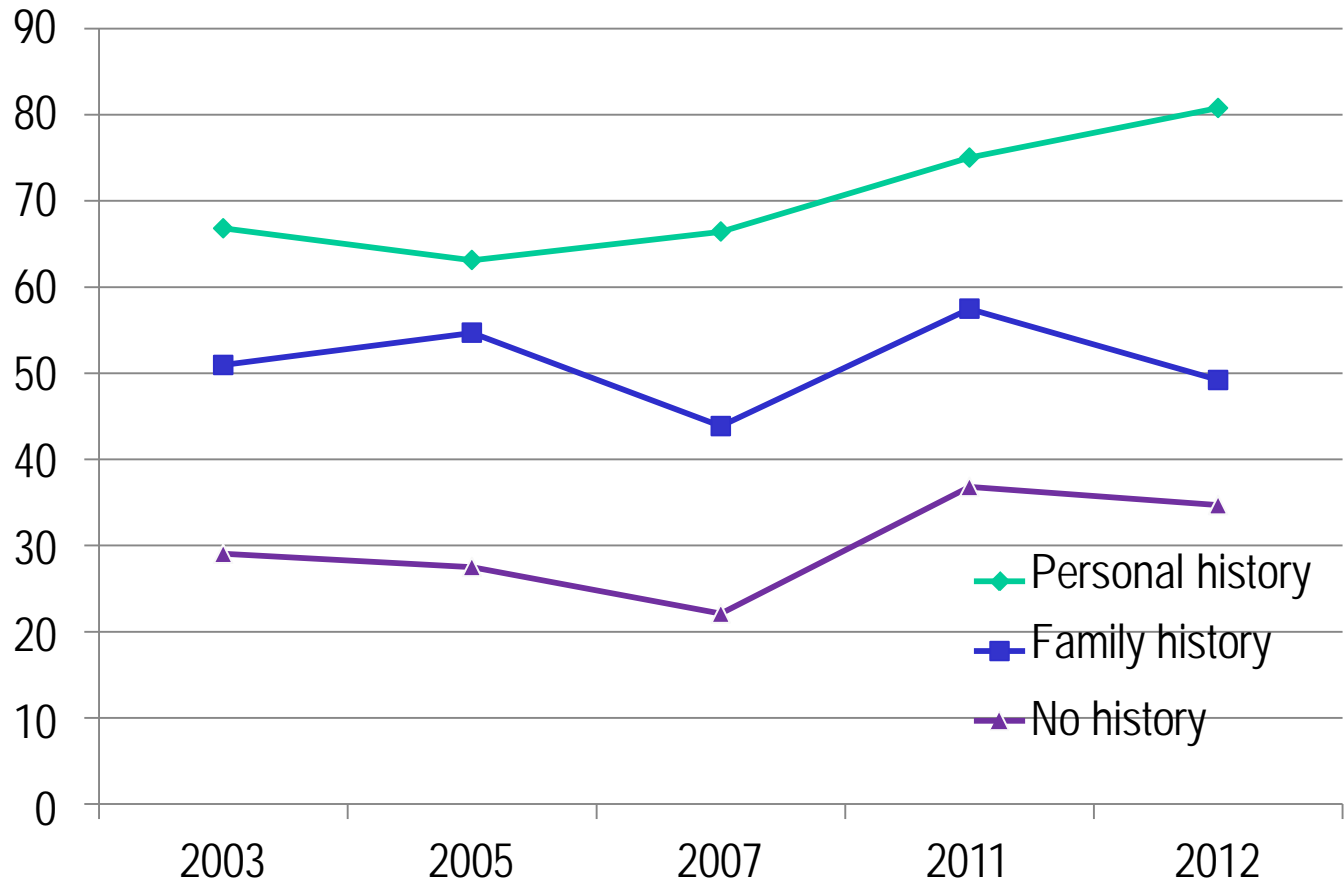
- ❖ Frequencies and cross-tabulations using Chi-square tests
- ❖ Multivariable logistic regressions
  - Survey year, gender, age, education, annual income, race/ethnicity, health insurance, time since diagnosis, and cancer site
- ❖ All data were weighted to provide representative estimates of the adult U.S. population



## Results

- ❖ Cancer information seeking was more frequent among cancer survivors (69.8%) compared to those with a family history (51.2%) and no history (29.6%) ( $p < 0.001$ )
- ❖ Over time, all three groups significantly increased their cancer information-seeking behaviors ( $p < 0.001$  for all)
- ❖ There was variation in information-seeking among those with a family history

# Trends of information-seeking by cancer history status





## Results

- ❖ In multivariable analyses, less frequent cancer-related information seeking occurred among survivors who were:
  - Older ( $p < .001$ )
  - Less-educated ( $p < .001$ )
  - Lower-income ( $p < .05$ )
  - Greater number of years post diagnosis ( $p < .05$ )
  
- ❖ Women with breast cancer were more likely to seek cancer information compared to individuals with other cancers

## Implications

- ❖ Cancer-related information seeking has increased over the last decade, particularly among those with a personal history of cancer
- ❖ Variation in information-seeking was observed by socio-demographic and clinical characteristics
- ❖ Findings underscore the need for targeted interventions among certain groups





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