

Dr. Donna Williams

Associate Dean of Practice and Community Engagement, LSU Health New Orleans School of Public Health

Director of Louisiana Cancer Prevention and Control

Education

Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA	B.S.	1983	Biomedical Engineering
Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA	M.S.	1985	Industrial Engineering
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA	M.P.H.	1991	Health Systems Management
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA	Dr.P.H.	2009	Community Health Sciences



Dr. Williams has spent more than 20 years researching health disparities and gaps in disease prevention and control efforts with state-wide initiatives involving partners from multiple sectors including state government. Her early contributions revolved around disparities unique to Louisiana including the effects of Hurricane Katrina on cancer prevention and control and cancer in the Louisiana Industrial Corridor. Later contributions have focused on very specific populations that face challenges in diagnosis and treatment such as young women and underserved women with breast cancer. In addition, Dr. Williams has conducted translational and interventional work relative to health behavior in areas of cancer prevention and early detection including cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination.

Dr. Williams' work focuses on removing barriers to cancer screening and early detection. While this is important in general, a further focus is on underserved and under-resourced populations including underserved minorities, under and uninsured people, the working poor, and rural populations. One area of focus is colorectal cancer screening/early detection. She continues to work with community health clinics to improve the availability of colorectal cancer screening. She is also a founding member of the Louisiana Colorectal Cancer Roundtable designed to investigate barriers to screening.

In 2002, Dr. Williams took on a leadership role with the Louisiana Breast and Cervical Health Program, focusing on screening services for under and uninsured low-income women in Louisiana funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That single program has expanded over the years to become the Louisiana Cancer Prevention & Control Programs (LCP), a group of research and practice programs that focus on cancers that are preventable or can be detected early and cured. LCP continues to be funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as several other organizations.

She received her doctoral degree from Tulane University School of Public Health. She has 30 years of experience in cancer research, and prevention and control in Louisiana with an emphasis on cancers that can be prevented or detected early and cured.