

2017 MISSOURI NPCR SUCCESS STORY

STORY TITLE: Communication Strategies to Improve Job Satisfaction of Reporting CTRs

STATE REGISTRY AND AUTHOR NAME(S): Missouri Cancer Registry (MCR), N. Rold, BA, CTR; J. Jackson-Thompson, MSPH, PhD

SUMMARY:

While attending the National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) meeting in Nashville in 2014, I attended a presentation that spurred me into action. “The Path from Registration to Research: How Cancer Registrars are Saving Lives” by Dennis Deapen and David Press very effectively introduced a hypothetical exhausted registrar who is motivated to finish strong on her last case of the week because she remembers that her data is part of hundreds of peer-reviewed publications. This presentation showed registrars how their daily work contributes to a wealth of important public health and research initiatives.

I turned that inspiration into a popular column, “Registry to Research”, in our MCR Monthly Update newsletter to hospital registrars. Each month, I search the literature for new cancer publications that base their findings on data from various cancer registries. I am generally able to cite 6-12 articles. This does not take a large investment of time on my part, but pays big dividends in registrar morale. As a result, hospital registrars have asked MCR for presentations and posters to further document the value of their work to the cancer surveillance community.

CHALLENGE:

Major changes to coding stemming from advances in oncology practice 2010-2017 created many additional fields for registrars to collect. At the same time, fiscal pressures in the health care field have forced registries to do more with fewer resources. As a result, registrars have been scrambling to keep up facility productivity requirements while still maintaining a relevant, high-quality database. This has taken its toll on registrar morale. Faced with a mountain of cases to abstract, many registrars lose sight of the meaning in the work that they do. Central cancer registries have an interest in retaining these experienced reporters in our profession. We must find ways to support them through motivation as well as education. This will become especially important in 2018 when cancer registry data collectors will be hit again with major changes to their work processes.

SOLUTION:

The first MCR “Registry to Research” column simply listed a dozen abstracts from the recent proceedings of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) as a proud example of how many research papers depend on cancer registrars’ data. Since then, I have used a variety of sources each month in my search for papers. CDC/NPCR, NCI/SEER and NAACCR websites and Twitter feeds are good sources. Practice Update Oncology articles are another good source of abstracts which can lead to articles showing cancer registry data within their methods.

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(<http://www.practiceupdate.com/explore/channel/oncology/sp1>). Additional impact is gained by inserting graphs from the USCS Data Visualizations website that pertain to a given cancer awareness month. Here is an excerpt from our September 2017 Monthly update:

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

From United States Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations (based on your data to us!):

Cancer Burden: Missouri

Rate of new cancers, Prostate, 2010-2014

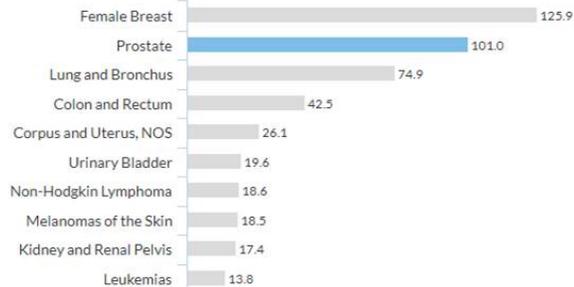


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Top 10 Cancers in Missouri by Rates of new cancers

Rate per 100,000 men

View data as:



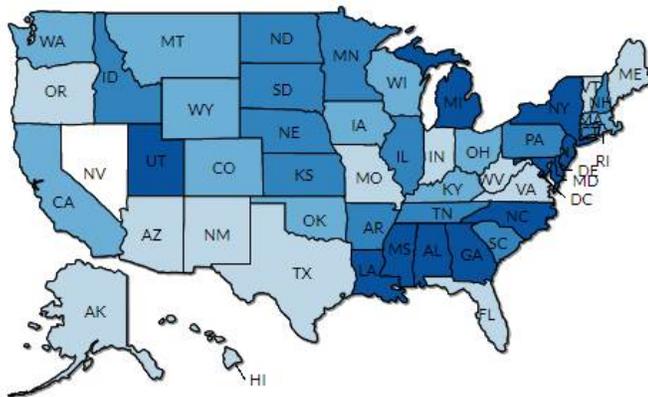
In Missouri, from 2010-2014, there were **17,428** new cases of prostate cancer. For every 100,000 men, **101.0** were diagnosed with prostate cancer.

The same year, there were **2,562** men who died of prostate cancer. For every 100,000 men in Missouri, **18.2** died of prostate cancer.

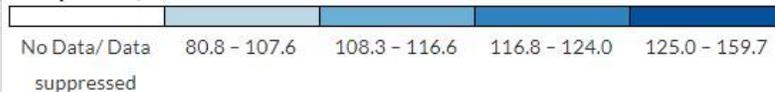
State Cancer Data compared to Other States

Rate of new cancers, Prostate, Male, 2010-2014

Rate of new cancers by State, Prostate



Rate per 100,000 men



U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. United States Cancer Statistics: 1999–2014 Incidence and Mortality Web-based Report. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; 2017.

REGISTRY TO RESEARCH (publications using cancer registry data)

The Burden of Cancer in Missouri: A Comprehensive Analysis and Plan, 2016-2020 (MCR data)

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<http://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/chronic/cancer/>

Invasive Cancer Incidence, 2004–2013, and Deaths, 2006–2015, in Nonmetropolitan and Metropolitan Counties — United States (NPCR & SEER data)

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/ss/ss6614a1.htm?s_cid=govD_cancer_rural_urban_01

Use of Alternative Medicine for Cancer and Its Impact on Survival (NCDB data)

<https://academic.oup.com/jnci/article/110/1/djx145/4064136/Use-of-Alternative-Medicine-for-Cancer-and-Its>

The association between patient attitudes and values and the strength of consideration for contralateral prophylactic mastectomy in a population-based sample of breast cancer patients (SEER data)

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/wol1/doi/10.1002/cncr.30924/full>

Concurrent chemotherapy is associated with improved survival in elderly patients with bladder cancer undergoing radiotherapy (NCDB data)

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cncr.30719/abstract>

Overall survival advantage of chemotherapy and radiotherapy in the perioperative management of large extremity and trunk soft tissue sarcoma; a large database analysis (NCDB data)

[http://www.thegreenjournal.com/article/S0167-8140\(17\)32480-5/abstract](http://www.thegreenjournal.com/article/S0167-8140(17)32480-5/abstract)

Racial Disparity in Delivering Definitive Therapy for Intermediate/High-risk Localized Prostate Cancer: The Impact of Facility Features and Socioeconomic Characteristics (NCDB data)

[http://www.europeanurology.com/article/S0302-2838\(17\)30652-8/fulltext](http://www.europeanurology.com/article/S0302-2838(17)30652-8/fulltext)

Change in Pattern of Secondary Cancers after Kaposi Sarcoma in the Era of Antiretroviral Therapy (SEER data)

<http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaoncology/article-abstract/2649758>

RESULTS:

MCR staff have received excellent feedback on the content of our Monthly Updates. Hospital registrars feel that their efforts reach beyond their facility when they see that “their” data is being used nationally in articles appearing in major peer-reviewed journals. They have asked for more details on how their data is used within Missouri.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS:

We will continue to include these popular sections in our MCR Monthly Updates. In the fall of 2017, at the request of registrars, we brought MCR research posters to display at the MO/KS regional registrars meeting in Kansas City. We will post relevant meeting posters and presentations by our staff to our website. In January 2018, we will also add a webinar to our MCR educational presentation series illustrating the many ways Missouri Cancer Registry data is used for public health surveillance and research. Using these simple, combined

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communication efforts, we plan to continue to remind local cancer registrars of the meaning in their work and motivate them to eagerly do their best for the cancer surveillance community.

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MCR Monthly Updates are posted to our website at:

<http://mcr.umh.edu/mcr-publications.php>
