

# 2019 NPCR DELAWARE SUCCESS STORY

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## Strategic Partnerships to Advanced Cancer Surveillance in Delaware

# NATIONAL PROGRAM OF CANCER REGISTRIES SUCCESS STORY

**SUMMARY:** Partnerships between the Delaware Cancer Registry (DCR) and strategic partners are a vital contribution that has led to continued success in cancer surveillance and control in Delaware. These collaborations have influenced the inward flow of data that increases data quality, timeliness, and completeness. In addition, they impact the outward flow of cancer registry data to advance evidence-based decision making and outreach in the state. Key partnerships and their impact create initiatives to help reduce the cancer burden statewide.

**CHALLENGE:** Cancer registry data are integral for assessing cancer burden, planning interventions, directing resources, and evaluating the impact and effectiveness of outreach. This makes cancer registries a keystone partner in cancer surveillance and state initiatives against cancer. Cancer surveillance and control is a multifaceted effort bringing together stakeholders to collect complete, quality, and timely data that is used to reduce cancer incidence and improve cancer outcomes.

The implementation of cancer surveillance and control comes with challenges. For some central cancer registries, limited resources impede and interfere with the reporting of complete and timely data. Previously, Delaware had faced many challenges related to limited resources but with the commitment of strategic partners statewide, they have been able to leverage those partnerships to meet their goals annually for the DCR and the state's cancer control efforts. Today, Delaware's cancer surveillance and control infrastructure is based upon strong partnerships with multiple agencies, committees, facilities, programs and their engagement with the general public. The collaboration with other entities, in a multi-disciplinary setting, helps to formulate pieces of a bigger picture.

**SOLUTION:** As noted above, in Delaware, cancer surveillance and control is pioneered on strong partnerships with multiple agencies, committees, facilities, programs, and their engagement with the public. The DCR has connections with the following: the Delaware Cancer Consortium (DCC); Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN); the Delaware Cancer Registrars Association (DCRA); and other inter-organizational and outreach programs.

These partnerships encourage data completeness, quality, timeliness, and aid in cancer control initiatives. The DHIN is a secured health exchange network of health information that doctors, patients, practices, and clinical advocates use. This network helps public health professionals to obtain the scope of a patient's records efficiently, to create a complete picture of their diagnosis. The DCRA is a professional organization of cancer specialists and public health professionals, who code, collect and manage cancer data in Delaware. The Governor of Delaware commissions the DCC and DCR data is used by the consortium to set priorities and track progress on goals and objectives of each committee. Committees of the consortium may recommend policy interventions that use cancer prevalence, incidence, and mortality data provided by the DCR to inform decision-makers about the public health impact of such interventions. The DCC working in close partnerships with these organizations and agencies, enables cancer data to be timely, complete, and in excellent quality. The DCR has fulfilled and exceeded over 100% completeness necessary for gold certification, by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) for more than ten years.

**RESULTS:** During 2018, the DCR fulfilled more than 25 data requests for providers, researchers, programs, and legislators. Between 2016 and 2018, there were forty-one requests, which came from hospitals, and another forty-one came from interagency programs, making these two categories the most common data requestors, as shown in Figure 1. Most of the

requests were used for hospital administration and quality assurance efforts shown in Figure 2. As mentioned above, the DCR has met and exceeded the expected cancer completeness necessary for gold certification for more than 10 years, as shown in Figure 3. This is mainly due to ninety percent of the reporting hospitals meeting the completeness and timeliness goals during this period.

Delaware has benefited from the DCR's partnerships and collaborations. The Division of Public Health houses the Bureau of Chronic Disease. The Comprehensive Cancer Control Branch and the Delaware Cancer Registry fall under this Bureau. Epidemiologists within the Bureau monitor cancer trends and report on cancer disparities, geographic distribution, and site-specific trends to inform policy, programming, education, and outreach efforts statewide to continue to reduce the state's cancer mortality rate. Over the last 10 years, some of the ongoing initiatives are mentioned below:

- The Women's Mobile Health Screening Unit has visited certain geographic areas based on areas of high late-stage cancer incidence for screen-able cancers.
- Mailers were sent out to all Delawareans to educate them on the importance of prevention, screening, and treatment of chronic diseases based on areas of late stage diagnosis of breast, colorectal, and lung cancer.
- Mailers were sent out to legislators in all districts summarizing cancer trends in their area in an effort to have a better understanding to inform constituents that may express concerns.
- The Screening for Life Program started offering lung cancer screening as a reimbursable screening to eligible clients in 2015 based on updated screening recommendations and the high burden of lung cancer in Delaware.
- The Comprehensive Cancer Control Program partners with the Department of Elections to send a birthday postcard to all Delawareans upon their 50th birthday to remind them of the importance of colon cancer screening and to females upon their 40th birthday to remind them of the importance of breast cancer screening.

DCR partnerships have been vital in cancer surveillance. Collaborations also lead to linkages, publications, and presentations. The connections influence the status of cancer in the state in a multi-disciplinary approach. Existing partnerships were determined to be essential to registry data quality, timeliness, completeness, and decision-making as well as influence partner decisions. The Division of Public Health plans to collect more information on screening.

**SUSTAINING SUCCESS:** Delaware is committed to sustaining the partnerships and collaborations established with multiple agencies, committees, facilities, programs and their engagement with the public. Moving forward, it is a priority to increase collaboration through data linkages and strengthening existing partnerships. By doing so, the Delaware Division of Public Health and the DCR will continue to reduce the cancer burden in Delaware and implement evidence-based interventions to priority populations statewide using DCR data as a source in planning efforts.

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