

2023 NPCR MASSACHUSETTS SUCCESS STORY

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Massachusetts Cancer Registry – Cancer Initiatives Unit A Perfect Partnership for Cancer Control Collaboration

National Program of Cancer Registries SUCCESS STORY

SUMMARY

The main objective of the Massachusetts Cancer Registry (MCR) is the collection of complete, timely, and quality data to monitor the burden of cancer in the Massachusetts population and to help target cancer prevention and control activities to those at highest risk to reduce cancer incidence and mortality. This success story describes how the MCR collaborates with the Cancer Initiatives Unit (CIU) under which the Massachusetts Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (MCCCP), Massachusetts Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (MBCCP), and Massachusetts Colorectal Cancer Control Program (MA CRCCP) are based on four major focus areas. These include data sharing; reports and presentations; coalitions, advisory committees, and workgroups; and grant coordination and management.

CHALLENGE

- The shift from on-site work to telework has made it difficult to hold in-person meetings, as most meetings are held virtually and seem to lack human connection.
- Ensuring that MCR data are used adequately for CIU programs, and that program staff are familiar with MCR data.
- How can the MCR be more involved in CIU activities?
- How can the CIU help disseminate cancer data to internal Massachusetts Department of Public Health users and the public?

SOLUTION

- Data**
- MCR data are used by the MCCCP for program planning, to identify geographic and priority populations, evaluate program effectiveness, and assess overall progress in reducing inequities in cancer. These data are also used to set goals and objectives for the statewide cancer plan.
 - Massachusetts Comprehensive Cancer Coalition (MCCC) and MCCCP Workgroups
 - MCR regularly meets and participates in workgroups and the MCCC to build relationships and support implementation of cancer program activities. MCR staff sit on different committees responsible for preparing the new statewide cancer plan.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

- The MCR collaborates with the CIU to prepare and disseminate cancer data through annual reports, data briefs, presentations, and newsletters to help educate internal and external interested parties about the burden of cancer in Massachusetts and how we can use these data for action.

- Cancer Control Meetings and Grant Coordination and Management**
- The MCR convenes cancer control meetings with cancer control programs including the Bureau of Environmental Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the MCCCP, MBCCP, and the MA CRCCP where we share updates, identify opportunities for collaboration, and discuss grant implementation and upcoming deadlines.

RESULTS

- Data Sharing: The MCR provided data to the MCCCP to conduct further analysis of the cancer burden among specific populations.
- Reports and Presentations: The MCR collaborated with the CIU to prepare the annual statewide report, by including DPH cancer initiatives in the report. The MCR also worked with the CIU on the prostate cancer data brief to include a section on health and racial equity, and on prostate cancer-specific initiatives at DPH.
- Coalition, Advisory Committees and Workgroups: MCR staff attend coalition and workgroup meetings. The MCR Advisory Committee also includes members from the MCCCP.
- Grant Coordination and Management: The MCR and CIU meet quarterly to share updates, report on workplan progress, and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS

- What are the proposed next steps?
 - » Continued collaboration between the MCR and CIU on several initiatives including preparation of the new cancer plan.
 - » Preparation of annual reports, data briefs, and presentations.
- Is this success sustainable?
 - » The MCR will continue partnering with the CIU in providing data for developing the cancer plan, evaluating interventions, contributing to the MCCC newsletter, attending MCCC workgroups and cancer control meetings.

REGISTRY CONTACT

<https://www.mass.gov/massachusetts-cancer-registry>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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