

2023 NPCR OHIO SUCCESS STORY

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Student Volunteers Help Dermatology Offices Overcome Barriers to Reporting

National Program of Cancer Registries SUCCESS STORY

SUMMARY

The Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System (OCISS) is the population-based central cancer registry for the state. OCISS, in collaboration with the statewide cancer coalition, the Ohio Partners for Cancer Control (OPCC), implemented the Ohio Melanoma Reporting System, using student volunteers to improve reporting of melanoma cases.

CHALLENGE

- Melanoma is underreported due to barriers dermatology offices face in reporting cancer to OCISS, including lack of awareness of reporting requirements and having trained staff available to complete reports.
- According to United States Cancer Statistics¹, 3,404 melanoma cases were reported in Ohio in 2020.
- An objective was included in the *Ohio Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan 2021-2030*² to improve reporting of melanoma cases to 3,510 cases by 2026 and 3,677 cases by 2030.

SOLUTION

- Members of OPCC’s Skin Cancer and Ultraviolet (UV) Exposure Workgroup, including OCISS staff, are helping dermatology offices overcome barriers to reporting through the implementation of the Ohio Melanoma Reporting System.
- The Skin Cancer Center, led by workgroup member, Dr. Brett Coldiron, serves as the hub of the Ohio Melanoma Reporting System, receiving pathology reports and demographic information (via a secure fax line) on persons diagnosed with melanoma at participating dermatology practices throughout the state.
- Student volunteers from the University of Cincinnati’s Cancer Registry Management Program receive training on abstracting melanoma using the online form available in Web Plus. The OCISS Education and Training Coordinator, Cheryl Radin-Norman, provides training with support from the class instructor, Linette Kallaos.
- Students are provided access to the information faxed to the Skin Cancer Center and use it to complete abstracts in Web Plus.

RESULTS

- Seven dermatology practices and 16 student volunteers participate in the Ohio Melanoma Reporting System.
- To date, the Ohio Melanoma Reporting System has reported 260 cases of melanoma to OCISS. Most of these cases would not have been reported as only one of the practices was reporting prior to participating in the Ohio Melanoma Reporting System.
- OCISS staff follow up with participating dermatology offices at least once each semester to request any missing information needed to make a complete cancer report.
- Training student volunteers to report melanoma for dermatology offices is an effective way to improve melanoma reporting, reduce barriers to reporting for dermatology offices and provides students with real-world experience in abstracting.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS

- An additional eight dermatology offices have expressed interest in participating in the Ohio Melanoma Reporting System.
- Dermatology offices have not been faxing all of the information required to make a complete cancer report. Regular follow-up with the dermatology office will increase the number of reports that can be made.
- Each semester, training on abstracting melanoma is provided to a new group of students.

STORY QUOTES

“Despite being in its infancy, the Ohio Melanoma Reporting System has already made a great impact in improving the accuracy of melanoma reporting. As more practices opt into the system, it will undoubtedly lead to a better understanding of how melanoma is affecting our communities.”
– Matthew DaCunha, MD, The Skin Cancer Center

“This partnership has proven to be a mutually beneficial endeavor, addressing the historical underreporting of melanomas, which is now being addressed through this unique collaboration. Our students not only acquire crucial insights into cancer reporting for OCISS, but also gain an understanding of the role of a cancer registrar.”
– Dr. Karen Lankisch, MHI, RHIA, CHDA, CEHRS, CPC, CPPM, Program Director, Health Information Systems, Cancer Registry Management, and Medical Coding, University of Cincinnati Clermont

REGISTRY CONTACT

<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/ohio-cancer-incidence-surveillance-system>

REFERENCES

1. U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool, based on 2022 submission data (1999-2020): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz>, released in June 2023.
2. Ohio Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan 2021-2030. Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Partners for Cancer Control, January 2021.



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