

2023 NPCR SOUTH CAROLINA SUCCESS STORY

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Overcoming COVID-19's Effect on Registry Operations

National Program of Cancer Registries SUCCESS STORY

SUMMARY

The South Carolina Central Cancer Registry (SCCCR) is a population-based surveillance system that monitors state cancer cases. Due to reduced primary care visits, disruption of routine cancer screening sites, and reduction in cancer reporting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SCCCR had to implement many new quality-control initiatives to ensure accurate cancer case ascertainment for 2020. As a result of the registry's resourcefulness, the National Program of Cancer Registries designated SCCCR as a Registry of Distinction for our 2020 data. The SCCCR plans to continue using enhanced standards of excellence while supporting pandemic preparedness in cancer screening.

CHALLENGE

- The SCCCR experienced a decline in cancer cases reported due to the pause of non-elective procedures and screenings.
- Facility personnel changes increased.
- A shortage of Certified Tumor Registrars (CTR) nationally and at the SCCCR.

SOLUTION

- SCCCR managers met bi-weekly to monitor the extent of the decline of cancer reporting by creating a Data Completeness Request template which captured the observed to expected cancer case ratio for the top five primary cancer sites.
- Communication and networking with facilities were increased to be aware of any personnel changes and provide support, if needed.
- Data submission and death clearance linkages were started several months before the normal registry operational schedule.

RESULTS

- The SCCCR met the NPCR data submission deadline.
- Data visualizations of facilities' electronic cancer case reporting were improved to determine a facility's reporting compliance quickly.
- The registry created improved documentation standards to help support CTRs and streamline the process of submitting cancer cases.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS

- The combination of our improved real-time monitoring of data completeness and newly implemented timeline for data submission activities will allow the SCCCR to exceed previous set timelines moving forward.
- The registry will use lessons learned to advocate for pandemic preparedness through its partnership with DHEC Cancer Programs and the SC Cancer Alliance.

STORY QUOTE

"As a team, we had bi-weekly discussions regarding our concerns of how delayed treatment will affect patient outcomes for years, so any and all collection of future COVID-19 research-related coding will be supported."
– Kammy Rebl, CTR

REGISTRY CONTACT

<https://scdhec.gov/cancerregistry>



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