2023 NPCR VIRGIN ISLANDS SUCCESS STORY

Verónica Rivera-López, CTR; John Orr

Creating a Casefinding Tool

National Program of Cancer Registries
SUCCESS STORY

SUMMARY

Due to the nature of our geography and population, a special request was made to the CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). The request was to allow the Virgin Islands Central Cancer Registry (VICCR) to abstract cancer cases from health care providers while health care providers prepare to abstract on their own. As health care providers are still not able to abstract cases, the VICCR continues to perform abstracting for the territory, and necessarily, casefinding. This required development of tools to accommodate that casefinding.

CHALLENGE

- VICCR must find all reportable cases within the territory's health care providers.

- Some providers provide all diagnosis codes for patients, not solely newly diagnosed patients.

- This can be a time-inefficient process.

SOLUTION

- VICCR developed provider-specific processes to pull all cancer diagnoses for specific time periods.

- The casefinding tool displays discharge data from all the hospitals and visit data from all oncologists in the territory from our reference year to present (2016–2023) for each patient. The tool allows for the classification of cases by status (abstracted, to be abstracted, non-reportable, prior reference date, follow up). The tool is also linked to the cancer database, which allows for matching of cases that are already in the database.

- The casefinding tool helps not only with identifying reportable cases, but also creates NAACCR-formatted files that can be imported into the cancer database.

- The tool provides information for passive follow up of patients that will help the VICCR achieve the goal of having up-to-date cancer data available for reference and research.

RESULTS

- Casefinding has been streamlined and valuable resources (staff time) have been reserved.

- Some of the Casefinding Tool functions, in addition to the classification of cases as mentioned above, include but are not limited to:

  » Creating follow-up lists by provider that helps minimize the amount of unknown data, like treatment or stage at diagnosis.

  » Matching the casefinding tool database with the cancer database provides updated date of last contact information, cancer and vital status.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS

- We are working on converting the tool into a dashboard with more capabilities.

- The tool falls within the capacity for maintenance and further development by informatics personnel at the Department of Health.
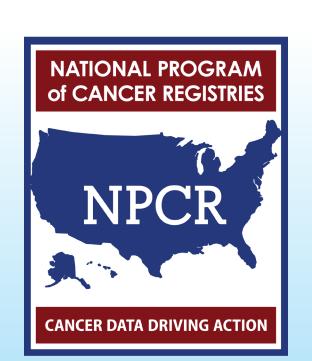
STORY QUOTE

"From working with multiple Excel documents identifying reportable cases to having a centralized, automated tool that includes cases from all hospitals as well as the oncologists in the territory, the Casefinding Tool has alleviated the burden of the casefinding task and has given me more time to focus on other registry tasks."
– Verónica Rivera-López, CTR

REGISTRY CONTACT

https://doh.vi.gov/programs/chronic-disease-and-prevention/virgin-islands-central-cancer-registry

NATIONAL PROGRAM
of CANCER REGISTRIES
NPCR
CANCER DATA DRIVING ACTION

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention