

2023 NPCR VIRGINIA SUCCESS STORY

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Using Registry Data for Action in Virginia’s Updated Cancer Plan

National Program of Cancer Registries SUCCESS STORY

SUMMARY

Cancer registry data are a cornerstone to inform partners and the public about cancer incidence and mortality trends. These data can be used to help inform prevention strategies and strategic plans to address the cancer burden and identify disparities. In 2023, an updated 5-year cancer plan was launched in Virginia, using the Virginia Cancer Registry data to create data-informed goals, objectives, and actionable strategies.

CHALLENGE

- Without comprehensive cancer registry data, data-driven plans for the Commonwealth of Virginia cannot be developed.
- A challenge is how to translate data used in the plan into action to reduce the cancer burden in Virginia.

SOLUTION

- From September 2021 to May 2022, ongoing discussions between the Virginia Cancer Registry, the Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and external partners guided the updating of a data-informed plan for the next five years, 2023-2027. The updated plan was released in February 2023.
- Actionable steps to achieve goals in the plan require collaboration. Since one of the goals was to reduce overexposure to ultraviolet radiation, cancer registry data on melanoma incidence were provided to a local parks and recreation department and health district interested in access to sun safety resources.

RESULTS

- Understanding how data are used to advance the Virginia Cancer Plan is important. Data-informed goals can inspire potential solutions and collaborations. As a result of the goal to reduce overexposure to ultraviolet radiation, the local parks and recreation department received sunscreen dispensers to be set up in specific outdoor spaces in the community.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS

- Using data to inform action requires a collaborative effort between multiple partners.
- Ensuring data are used to inform actions will help Virginia continue to reduce the cancer burden using the Virginia Cancer Plan as a roadmap.
- Trends can be monitored to see the effect of the Cancer Plan’s objectives and strategies on long-term goals.

STORY QUOTE

“Registry data were foundational in updating our Cancer Plan in order to create informed goals that could move data into action.”
– Christina Benton, MPH, Cancer Control Supervisor

REGISTRY CONTACT

Virginia Cancer Registry Website
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/virginia-cancer-registry/>



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