

# 2023 NPCR WEST VIRGINIA SUCCESS STORY

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## Making Cancer Data Approachable Through County-Level Statistics

### National Program of Cancer Registries SUCCESS STORY

#### SUMMARY

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Public Health’s (BPH) West Virginia Cancer Registry (WVCR) is a population-based registry that has maintained cancer data representing West Virginians since 1993. Every year, the WVCR works with public health partners and residents from different backgrounds and levels of education to inform the public about the status of cancer in the state and local communities. Easy-to-read, comprehensive cancer summaries are provided for each county in the state.

#### CHALLENGE

- Cancer data can be obtained from several online sources, but having too many options can be overwhelming.
- Additionally, some online sources can be difficult to navigate.
- Many sites do not provide county-level statistics. When they do, the statistics are often minimal.
- A further challenge is to make the process of obtaining county-level cancer data easier to maintain.

#### SOLUTION

- Create comprehensive cancer summaries for each county in West Virginia.
- Cancer summaries would provide county-level statistics to the public, organized to display several facets of cancer.

#### RESULTS

- A cancer summary was created and released for each of the 55 counties in West Virginia.
- Each summary includes incidence, mortality, trends over time, most diagnosed cancers, percentage of late-stage cancers among cancers for which screening is available, prevalence of cancer screening, and prevalence of cancer risk factors.
- These summaries have proven to be a success. Many of our public health partners have found them extremely useful for grant writing, marketing, and other public health endeavors.

#### SUSTAINING SUCCESS

- The WVCR plans on releasing new cancer summaries every year when new cancer data become available.
- The WVCR also intends to add more data to these summaries, such as Social Vulnerability Index, cancer mortality trends, most common causes of cancer-related death, and insurance coverage.

#### STORY QUOTE

*“My office works with community-based organizations that want to know health data specific to their community, in order to educate but also for grant writing and other project decision-making. Being able to share the county cancer profiles in addition to other information is incredibly helpful, so that they can see this information in a clear, easy-to-understand format.”*  
– Megan E. Ross, MPH, CHES

#### REGISTRY CONTACT

<https://oeeps.wv.gov/cancer/>



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