

# The Georgia Cancer Registry Dashboard Improves Local Cancer Data Access

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## SUMMARY

In early 2023, the Georgia Cancer Registry (GCR) Advisory Committee met and discussed creating the Georgia Cancer Registry Dashboard to include incidence, mortality, cancer screening, risk behaviors, and health equity-related indicators. A team of cancer epidemiologists and informatics analysts was assembled from the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), and meetings took place in which a plan was drafted, responsibilities were assigned, and a release date was set to coincide with the Annual Georgia Cancer Summit.

## CHALLENGES

- Funding for staff dedicated to the dashboard and for purchasing appropriate software licenses.
- Data preparation by epidemiology staff and training for informatics staff.
- Determining Georgia cancer coalitions' geographic regions.
- Competing priorities at the Georgia DPH leadership level.
- Obtaining final approval to publish the GCR dashboard.

## SOLUTION

The GCR used funding from CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries to support staff development and purchase licenses. The DPH informatics director was engaged from the beginning and staff were assigned to the project. Production began with cross training, planning, sketching mockups, and dividing duties. The GCR director met with each of the five Georgia cancer coalitions to explain the project objectives and requested a list of counties included in each region. When the dashboard was finalized, the GCR director met several times with DPH leadership to demonstrate the importance and usefulness of the dashboard for GCR partners, especially the cancer coalitions. Finally, external partners requested the dashboard to be released from DPH leadership.

## RESULTS

Collaboration between the DPH epidemiology team and the DPH informatics team used existing resources, increased capacity, and improved staff skills for both teams. The combined team was able to adjust the dashboard based on various needs. The team decided to develop the dashboard in three phases to facilitate release. In April 2024, the cancer registry incidence data dashboard was released. As of September 2024, the cancer mortality dashboard is ready for release and awaiting final approval from DPH leadership.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Since the release of the GCR cancer incidence dashboard, Georgia cancer coalitions and external partners such as the American Cancer Society and Georgia Core have been using the dashboard to create their own materials quoting data to inform potential legislative action and grant proposals. The GCR director will continue to work with DPH leadership. We expect the dashboard to require minimal maintenance. The annual update should require minimal attention from our informatics team, as staff were trained to update the dashboard regularly.