

## Illinois State Cancer Registry Collaborates with Cancer Registrars of Illinois to Provide In-Person Educational Conference

**AUTHORS:** Sarah Burton, ODS and Lori Koch, BA, CCRP, ODS

### SUMMARY

The Illinois State Cancer Registry (ISCR) collaborated with Cancer Registrars of Illinois (CRI) to offer a one-day, in-person educational conference for cancer registrars.

### CHALLENGE

- ISCR sought to provide in-person education on a greater breadth of topics to a larger audience.
- ISCR could provide in-person education only in facilities willing to host the event, but room capacities were often limited.

### SOLUTION

ISCR partnered with CRI to provide an in-person educational conference in Springfield, Illinois.

### RESULTS

A one-day CRI/ISCR Fall Educational Conference was held on October 1, 2024, in Springfield, Illinois, which is centrally located and within reasonable driving distance from all directions throughout the state. The Memorial Learning Center at Memorial Health was used, as it was available at no charge to ISCR for educational activities. ISCR and CRI planned the educational content, including booking of speakers and application for continuing education credit. Speakers from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) program, oncologists, and the ISCR trainer discussed topics including *Data Item Relationships*, *Overview of Colon Cancer*, *Breast Cancer: A Comprehensive Case Study*, *A Deeper Dive Into EOD*, and *IL State Cancer Registry Updates and Clarifications*. An impromptu "Ask ISCR" session was held during the meeting, in which attendees asked ISCR field staff questions about reportability and abstracting.

Sixty-five registrations were received for the meeting, and 62 people attended. The National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) pre-approved 5 hours of oncology data specialist continuing education, including 2 hours of category A.

Conference evaluations were sent to 62 attendees, and 31 responses were received (50% response rate). Attendees used a 1 through 5 scale to provide feedback, with 5 being the highest rating, and 1 being the lowest rating. Results were as follows:

Overall Satisfaction with Educational Conference	4.74
Data Item Relationships	4.94
Overview of Colon Cancer	4.71
Breast Cancer: A Comprehensive Case Study	3.32
A Deeper Dive Into EOD	4.32
IL State Cancer Registry Updates and Clarifications	4.87

Conference evaluation comments were positive. Overall, the ISCR thought the CRI/ISCR Fall Educational Conference was successful. ISCR explained important changes to reporting guidelines to registrars and cancer reporters in attendance, and advanced education was provided at the conference. The educational conference provided an in-person networking opportunity for attendees and provided 5 hours of in-person meeting attendance.

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

By partnering with CRI, ISCR was able to provide in-person education on more topics presented by standard setters and physicians in one location for registrars throughout the state. ISCR plans to continue its collaboration with CRI for future educational conferences. As reporting standards change, this will allow ISCR to provide in-person education to more registrars and cancer reporters. Due to the new continuing education requirements, the need for local and regional in-person, NCRA-approved continuing education opportunities will increase.



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