

Enhancing Cancer Surveillance in Nevada

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SUMMARY

The Nevada Central Cancer Registry (NCCR) has used innovative strategies to improve cancer surveillance, data quality, and reporting efficiency. Through targeted investments supported by the Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG), including the recent addition of a dedicated technology integration specialist, the registry has advanced electronic reporting, provider engagement, and data completeness, achieving notable milestones in reporting year 2024.

CHALLENGES

- For several years, NCCR faced challenges including outdated paper reporting methods, incomplete case submissions, gaps in provider engagement, and limited staffing resources. These challenges reduced Nevada's data completeness.
- Nevada's uniquely rural geography and lack of streamlined electronic reporting processes further hindered the registry's timely and accurate data collection.
- The registry has trouble finding and retaining qualified oncology data specialists to focus on electronic reporting.

SOLUTION

- With funding from PHIG, NCCR hired a staff member dedicated to leading efforts in modernizing data reporting to NCCR.
- The technology integration specialist was hired in May 2024 to support NCCR's transition to more efficient electronic reporting systems. This new staff member:
 - » Developed a comprehensive tracking database for providers.
 - » Advanced electronic pathology and dermatology case reporting using tools like Web Plus and eMaRC Plus software.
 - » Created resources and training materials to support registry staff and providers.

RESULTS

The PHIG technology integration specialist has:

- Enhanced engagement with dermatology and pathology providers, which expanded reporting capacity and significantly improved data completeness.
- Developed a tracking database system for dermatology reporting and training manuals and resources to support providers and staff.
- Reconciled pathology reports, which showed a gap in hospital pathology reporting.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

NCCR plans to:

- Expand outreach efforts to rural health care providers and additional specialties.
- Build on existing infrastructure to enhance data quality and timeliness further.
- Continue to invest in technology and staff training to ensure that these advancements will continue for years to come.