

2021 NPCR VERMONT SUCCESS STORY

Vermont Cancer Registry: Ali Johnson, MBA, CTR

Using Survival Data in Cancer Control Planning

National Program of Cancer Registries SUCCESS STORY

SUMMARY

The Comprehensive Cancer Control (CCC) and Vermont Cancer Registry (VCR) programs collaborate on designing metrics for evaluating how well the state's cancer partnership is reducing the burden of cancer among all Vermonters. Various metrics use VCR data; survival has not been included. The *2021-2025 State Cancer Plan* will be the first plan to have an objective relating to Vermont cancer survival data.

CHALLENGE

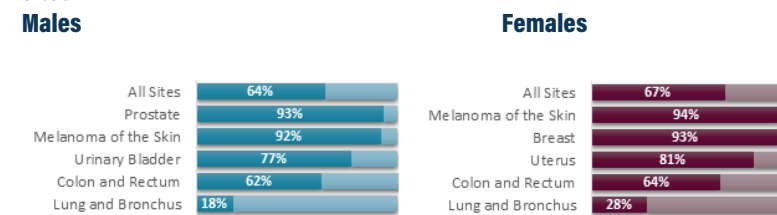
VCR needed to overcome two challenges to realize its goal of calculating and using survival statistics for cancer control evaluation:

- Develop and implement the survival methodology.
- Participate on Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer (VTAAC) Steering Committee planning process.

SOLUTION

Step 1. Develop and implement the survival methodology. We requested access to CINA Analytic File and used that SEER*Stat database¹ to analyze Vermont cancer survival statistics (shown in Figure 1).

Figure 1. 5-year relative survival (%), 2009-2015, by Vermont leading cancer sites.

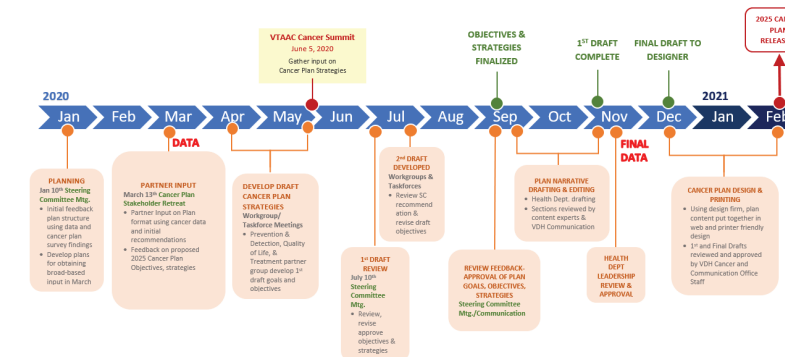


Source: Vermont Cancer Registry, Vermont Department of Health, Burlington, Vermont.

Step 2. Participate on Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer (VTAAC) Steering Committee planning process.

The Cancer Registry Manager is a longstanding member of the VTAAC Steering Committee. She helped the CCC Manager with the process of garnering consensus in the cancer control community in drafting all the goal areas, objectives, and strategies. Figure 2 shows the various steps on the plan drafting process. Due to the pandemic, this process was prolonged over one year.

Figure 2. State Cancer Plan Development Process, March 2020.



RESULTS

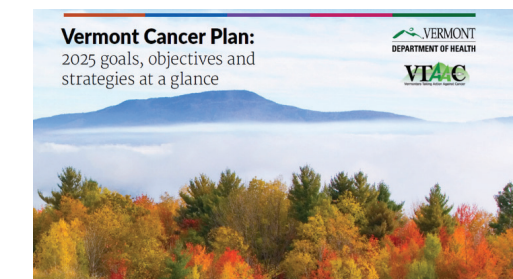
Objectives in the *2016-2020 Vermont Cancer Plan* using VCR data include:

- Prevention: incidence rates of tobacco-associated, obesity-associated, and HPV-associated cancers, and invasive melanoma.
- Screening: colorectal, cervical, breast, and lung cancers diagnosed at an advanced stage among screening eligible population.

In addition to these objectives, the *2025 Vermont Cancer Plan* will include:

Objective	Baseline (2009-2015)	Goal
Increase the proportion % of cancer survivors who are living five (5) years or longer after diagnosis.	66%	69%

Check back soon for the new plan on the Cancer Plans and Reports page: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/wellness/reports/cancer>.



SUSTAINING SUCCESS

VCR staff routinely meet with members of the CCC, Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening, and VTAAC teams. Vermont's Cancer Leadership Team uses a multidisciplinary approach to integrate work among programs. This collaboration is key to having VCR's recommendations for certain metrics, such as cancer survival, be considered for publication in the *State Cancer Plan*.

REGISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

802-863-7300
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/stats/registries/cancer-registry>

¹ SEER*Stat Database: NAACCR Incidence Data - CiNA Analytic File, 1995-2016, for Expanded Races, Custom File With County, Kachajian - Survival VT (which includes data from CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR), CCCR's Provincial and Territorial Registries, and the NCI's Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Registries), certified by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) as meeting high-quality incidence data standards for the specified time periods, submitted December 2018.