

NEW JERSEY

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Geographic Disparities in Colorectal Cancer in New Jersey

NATIONAL PROGRAM OF CANCER REGISTRIES SUCCESS STORY

SUMMARY: To evaluate statewide geospatial disparities, the New Jersey State Cancer Registry (NJSCR) Cancer Surveillance Research Program (CSRP) created maps to visualize and identify the location of New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection (NJCEED) partner facilities that offer colorectal cancer (CRC) screening in the context of transportation limitations and cancer burden by county. These maps were presented to public health partners to educate and raise awareness, as well as to guide targeted interventions through the NJCEED program.

CHALLENGE: Determine where the burden of CRC is highest and screening adherence is lowest, and evaluate these rates in combination with the availability of public transportation and screening resources, to identify disparities that can potentially guide targeted interventions through the NJCEED program.

SOLUTIONS:

- The CRSP utilized ArcGIS® to identify geographic disparities in the burden of CRC in NJ using NJSCR data. New Jersey Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (NJBFRS) data was utilized to map the distribution of men and women who reported being “up to date” on CRC screening and compared to the cancer burden map to identify areas where the burden was high and screening adherence was low. The 2016 American Community Survey Census data were also used to map the distribution of the screening age population (“at risk population”) to see where resources can be allocated.
- NJCEED lead sites and partner facilities that offer CRC screening and the NJCEED eligible population (at or below 250% federal poverty level (FPL), uninsured and CRC screening age) were then mapped to identify whether resources were available where the “at risk” population was highest.

RESULTS:

- The analyses revealed disparities in southern NJ that may be related to access to care. There were fewer NJCEED partners in southern NJ, a lack of public transportation, and a higher burden of cancer compared to counties in northern NJ.
- The area known as “The Pinelands” in southern NJ was immediately identified as an area in need of targeted interventions and with a potential to expand partnerships to offer CRC screening.

- The maps have been presented through the following initiatives:
 - Men’s Breakfast – to help educate, inform, refer, and interact with men at designated sites (usually a church) to improve prostate and colorectal cancer screening.
 - Faith Based Initiative - to help educate, inform, refer, and interact with women and men at designated sites (usually a church) to improve breast, cervical, colorectal, and prostate cancer education/screening.
 - NJCEED Coordinators & Coalition meetings – to share the maps with funded NJCEED/Office of Cancer Control and Prevention (OCCP) agencies to help identify targeted areas within their county.
 - Biannual report of the CDC National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP).

SUSTAINING SUCCESS:

- We have used the National Provider Identifier (NPI) record, internet searches, and NJCEED partnership lists to create a comprehensive list of gastroenterologists who perform colonoscopies in NJ to apply these analyses statewide for sharing with the “NJ CRC Stakeholders” a local chapter of the American Cancer Society (ACS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National CRC Roundtable initiative: 80by2018. We will be presenting the findings at the next southern NJ CRC Stakeholder meeting.
- Information will continue to be shared via presentations with the public and public health partners within the local community.

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