Cancer kills more Americans under age 85 than heart disease. One of every four deaths in the U.S. is from cancer, costing more than $220 billion in annual medical expenses. Cancer surveillance, an indispensable tool, provides critical information for national initiatives and the infrastructure for state and local public health professionals to track and respond to the cancer burden. Without cancer registries, we would not be able to monitor cancer control.

The Need for Greater Resources

Additional funding is needed to modernize cancer surveillance so that states and territories can more efficiently, rapidly, and cost-effectively report on cancer trends, monitor program impact, and respond to public inquiries and concerns regarding cancer occurrence. All healthcare providers (hospitals; pathology labs; outpatient and treatment facilities) are legally required to report cancer cases to central cancer registries in every U.S. state and territory, which, in turn, submit de-identified data to CDC. The current process of cancer registration has changed little in the last 25 years. The CDC solution is to modernize the cancer surveillance system by creating a national cloud-based computing platform (CBCP) that will enable real-time reporting to central cancer registries. The CBCP will be implemented as a database and network portal. This will allow reporting facilities and the central registry to access and provide ongoing updated data at the same time, greatly improving efficiency and data quality, decreasing long-term costs, and expanding the number of core data elements reported.

Such a system will enable:
- Much faster data to evaluate and improve cancer control strategies and program planning
- Quicker understanding of how interventions are working and ability to adjust if needed
- Better informed decisions about where resources need to be allocated
- Timelier identification of where cancer research needs are

CDC National Program of Cancer Registries

The National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) is the backbone of CDC’s cancer prevention and control programs. State-based cancer registries are data systems designed to gather, manage, and analyze data about incidence, stage at diagnosis and treatment. This information is used to: guide planning and evaluation of cancer control programs; help allocate health resources; contribute to clinical, epidemiologic, and health services research; and respond to citizen concerns over the presence of cancer in their communities.

CDC’s NPCR supports more than 50 cancer registries: 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Pacific Island jurisdictions, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. When combined with the National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program, CDC creates the United States Cancer Statistics, an annual census of cancer cases in the US. Complete and accurate data strengthens local cancer programs, provides understanding of national trends, cancer burden in special populations, and regional variations in cancer, and provides new insights into rare childhood cancers, brain tumors, and others. Through the NPCR, CDC collects detailed information on more than 1,700,000 new cancer cases annually. CDC is a leader in the promotion and implementation of innovative approaches to automated electronic reporting in public health surveillance.

*For more information visit, [http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr)

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