CANCER REGISTRIES

Background

Cancer is the nation's second leading cause of death and kills more Americans under age 85 than heart disease. Cancer surveillance and reporting are critical tools in helping state and local public health professionals track and respond to the cancer epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) collects data on cancer occurrence (including the type, extent, and location of the cancer), the type of initial treatment, and outcomes in almost every state. Through the Cancer Registries Amendment Act, Congress created the NPCR, authorized CDC to provide funding and technical assistance to statewide, population-based cancer registries, and established CDC's national cancer surveillance system. Before the NPCR was established, most states with registries lacked the resources and legislative support they needed to gather complete data, and ten states did not have a registry.

CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries

CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control (DCPC) collects data on cancer cases and treatment via the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). NPCR manages over 50 cancer registries designed to gather, manage, and analyze data about incidence, stage at diagnosis, and treatment. This information is used to guide the 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.

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 United States. Complete and accurate data strengthens local cancer programs and provides an understanding of national trends, cancer burden in special populations, and regional variations in cancer. Through the NPCR, CDC collects detailed information on over 1,700,000 new cancer cases annually. CDC is a leader in promoting and implementing innovative approaches to automated electronic reporting in public health surveillance.

Increased funding for the NPCR would allow more funding to be distributed to states to sustain and build out their cancer registries and aid DCPC's efforts to reinforce NPCR's computing and technology infrastructure.

Role of Cancer Registries

The NPCR supports central cancer registries in 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the US Pacific Island Jurisdictions, and the US Virgin Islands. These data represent 97% of the US population and offer healthcare providers, legislators, and patients a well-rounded picture of cancer in the United States. The data can also provide answers to questions such as:

- Are more or fewer people getting colon cancer this year compared to last year?
- Are women in some geographic regions more likely to have breast cancer at a late stage, when it's harder to treat?
- What groups of people are most likely to get skin cancer?

For more information contact:
Amy Souders
Cornerstone Government Affairs
asouders@cgagroup.com