

# Cancer Registries:

Providing Quality Cancer Data to Inform Policy at the  
Local, State, and National Levels

*Congress provide at least \$70 million for CDC National Program of  
Cancer Registries*



## Impact of National Program of Cancer Registries

Cancer registries are managed by individual states in partnership with the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which provides states with technical, operational, and financial support. The NPCR supports and collects cancer incidence and death rate data from cancer registries in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and three territories, encompassing 97 percent of the population. The National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) program collects data from the rest of the country so that data for the entire U.S. population are available.

## NPCR Captures More than 1.8 Million New Cases of Cancer each Year



## FY 2021 OVAC Funding Request

The more accessible and usable registry data are, the more benefit they can have on the public's health. Towards this end, CDC is working to enhance NPCR cancer registry data through additional data collection, expanded electronic reporting, and innovative public health applications. Funding of at least **\$70 million** would allow the CDC to create a cloud-based system that would record data in real time and modernize its data-capturing system. Under the current, antiquated system, there is a 24-month delay before information is made available to NPCR and reported to the CDC website. Consequently, important studies—those that monitor the burden of disease, the impact of prevention strategies, and treatment efficacy—are delayed. This delay can hurt our progress against cancer.

## Real World Example: Breast and Cervical Cancer in Kentucky

Through the use of cancer registries, the Kentucky Breast and Cervical Screening Program identified counties with low breast and cervical incidence but high mortality rates. Armed with these data, key stakeholders were able to leverage funding for clinical services, including an increase in funding for screening services. Innovative tools such as mobile mammography were made available to reach underserved women and increase screening rates.

### How Are Registry Data Used?

Healthcare providers, public health officials, and researchers use the data to:

- **Monitor** cancer trends over time
- **Evaluate** cancer patterns in populations and identify high-risk groups
- **Guide** planning and evaluation of cancer control programs
- **Set** priorities for allocating health resources
- **Study** cancer causes and prevention strategies

Registry data are critical to CDC's cancer prevention programs, including the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, the Colorectal Cancer Control Program, and the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program. Registry data help to determine which populations are most in need of prevention and screening efforts.

