

The Value of Cancer Registries to Public Health

Call to Action: The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) calls on Congress to support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Program for Cancer Registries (NPCR). Accessible, high-quality and usable registry data is critical to protect health and save lives.

What's At Stake

The CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries provides technical, operational and financial support to almost all state cancer registries to help ensure data collected are representative of the U.S. population. State registry data are the **foundation of a state's comprehensive cancer control plan**. Eliminating NPCR would result in state cancer control programs lacking the data needed to inform planning efforts, allocate resources and evaluate progress. States use data on cancer incidence, mortality, staging and screening to inform **policymakers, health care professionals, researchers and residents about the impact cancer has on their state**.

The National Program of Cancer Registries

In 1992, Congress established the CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries, after citing the need for national cancer incidence data for local, state, and regional health planning. The [Cancer Registries Amendment Act](#) authorized CDC to provide funding and technical assistance to statewide, population-based cancer registries and established CDC's national cancer surveillance system.

By identifying trends or shifts in the burden of cancer, policymakers can take steps to reverse negative trends.

Registry data are critical to CDC's cancer prevention programs, including the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, Colorectal Cancer Control Program and the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program.

Registries provide a road map in the fight against cancer.

MONITOR

cancer incidence and mortality trends over time.



EVALUATE

cancer patterns in populations and identify high-risk groups.



GUIDE

planning and evaluation of cancer control programs and set priorities for allocating resources.



RESEARCH

cancer causes and prevention strategies to see which improve health outcomes.



97% of the U.S. population is covered by the NPCR.

The NPCR supports central cancer registries in 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Pacific Island Jurisdictions and the U.S. Virgin Islands.