

How Does the California Cancer Registry Work?

Cancer became a reportable disease with the enactment of Health and Safety Code, Section 103885 in 1985. The CCR has gathered information on all cancers diagnosed in California since 1988. (The only exceptions are basal and squamous cell carcinoma of the skin and carcinoma *in situ* of the cervix.)

The CCR is a three-level system:

- ◆ Medical treatment facilities collect and report cancer data from their medical records. Physicians report information on cancer patients who are not referred to a medical treatment facility.
- ◆ A network of ten regional registries receives these data and checks for accuracy, performs analyses, and conducts studies specific to the local area.

The central registry in Sacramento collates these data, performs additional quality control and analyzes the data on a statewide basis.

What About Patient Confidentiality?

All data collected by the California cancer reporting system are subject to the confidentiality provisions in Section 103875-103885 of the Health and Safety Code.

Confidential information can only be released for research purposes to investigators whose study protocols have been approved by a federally approved committee for the protection of human subjects, and who comply with additional conditions specified by the CCR.

Numbers to Call for Information:

Region 1/8

Northern California Cancer Center
510-429-2500

(Counties: Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo)

Region 2

Cancer Registry of Central California
559-244-4550

(Counties: Fresno, Kern, King, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne)

Region 3

Cancer Surveillance Program, Region 3
916-454-6522

(Counties: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Solano, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba)

Region 4

Tri-Counties Regional Cancer Registry
805-563-0457

(Counties: San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura)

Region 5

Desert Sierra Cancer Surveillance Program
909-558-6170

(Counties: Inyo, Mono, Riverside, and San Bernardino)

Region 6

Cancer Registry of Northern California
530-345-2483

(Counties: Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tehama, and Trinity)

Region 7/10

Cancer Surveillance Program of Orange County & San Diego Imperial Organization for Cancer Control
949-824-7401

(Counties: Orange, San Diego, and Imperial)

Region 9

Cancer Surveillance Program
323-442-2300

(County: Los Angeles)

California Cancer Registry

Cancer Surveillance Section
Department of Health Services

1700 Tribute Road, Suite 100
Sacramento, California, 95815-4402

phone: 916-779-0300, fax: 916-779-0264

www.ccrca.org or www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/ps/cdic/cdicindex.html

The California Cancer Registry is a collaborative partnership among the California Department of Health Services, its contractor, the Public Health Institute (a non-profit corporation dedicated to advancing the public health of Californians), and the ten regional cancer registries.



CALIFORNIA'S
CANCER REPORTING
SYSTEM

CANCER
CANCER
CANCER
CANCER

Research, Education & Awareness



Why is the California Cancer Registry Necessary?

Whether experienced personally or through others, cancer affects virtually everyone. More than 2 out of 5 persons now living in California will develop cancer during their lifetime, and about 1 in 5 will die of cancer. Approximately 133,000 new cases and nearly 53,000 deaths occur in California each year.

The California Cancer Registry (CCR) is California's state-wide population-based cancer surveillance system. The CCR collects information about cancers diagnosed in California. This information furthers our understanding of cancer and is used to develop strategies and policies for its prevention, treatment, and control.

Many cancers can be cured if detected early and treated promptly; some can be prevented with behavioral or lifestyle changes. The availability of data on cancer in the state allows health researchers to analyze geographic, ethnic, occupational, and other differences in order to search for clues that point to risk factors, and to determine where early detection, educational or other programs should be directed.

**133,000 New Cancer Cases
and Nearly 53,000 Cancer
Deaths Occur Each Year in
California .**

How are California Cancer Registry Data Used?

CCR data are used to:

- ◆ Study cancer causes and risk factors.
- ◆ Conduct epidemiological and clinical research studies.
- ◆ Evaluate patterns of treatment and stage of diagnosis.
- ◆ Disseminate information for planning and early detection programs.
- ◆ Respond to state and local questions and concerns about cancer.
- ◆ Provide information to citizens, legislators, and health professionals.

What has the California Cancer Registry Accomplished?

The California Cancer Registry is one of the largest registries in the world and is internationally recognized for its high quality cancer incidence data. Because of California's racial diversity, the CCR can provide information on cancer rates among specific racial/ethnic groups. CCR data form the foundation for cancer control programs, research, epidemiological analyses, cancer risk factor identification surveys, and educational forums.

The CCR issues annual reports on cancer incidence and mortality in California. It has published special reports on breast cancer in California, childhood cancer mortality, and cancer research utilizing the CCR. Region-specific reports are produced and include county specific incidence and mortality rates. Additionally, data are being used to:

- ◆ Evaluate utilization of breast conserving surgery.
- ◆ Target and evaluate breast cancer intervention programs.
- ◆ Determine if AIDS patients are at increased risk for cancers other than Kaposi's Sarcoma and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- ◆ Monitor the impact of prostate specific antigen (PSA) on prostate cancer rates and treatment.
- ◆ Evaluate the performance of cancer care in California.

The CCR is the primary source of cancer data for the American Cancer Society's annual "California Cancer Facts and Figures" report, an important planning and educational tool used by statewide organizations working to eliminate or reduce cancer incidence and mortality.

Since 1988, researchers using CCR data continue to receive major grants to investigate the causes, prevention, and cures of cancer. This research has resulted in:

- ◆ 340 research projects initiated.
- ◆ 727 articles and abstracts published in scientific journals and books.

Grants come from the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Whom Does the California Cancer Registry Benefit?

Through these activities and others, the CCR advances the health of Californians by contributing a significant body of knowledge for cancer control research and practice efforts.

Many individuals and groups in California and beyond benefit from the CCR:

- ◆ The Public
- ◆ Cancer patients and their families
- ◆ Hospitals/health centers
- ◆ Health professionals
- ◆ Researchers
- ◆ Local and state health departments

