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Christie Eheman, MS, PhD
Chief, Cancer Surveillance Branch
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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Highway, MS-K53
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April 6, 2009

Dear Dr. Eheman:

The North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, Inc. (NAACCR, Inc.) would like to express its resolute support for the proposed CDC-NPCR Workload Management Study. As you know, NAACCR is a professional association representing all population based cancer registries in the United States and Canada. NAACCR develops and promotes uniform data standards for cancer registration; provides education and training; certifies population-based registries; aggregates and publishes data from central cancer registries; and promotes the use of cancer surveillance data and systems for cancer control and epidemiologic research, public health programs, and patient care to reduce the burden of cancer in North America.

While each state and province has a population-based cancer registry, to our knowledge, there has not been a formal study to evaluate the workforce needs of central cancer registries. There are many staffing models used by central registries, but these models have not been evaluated for their efficiency of operation, nor the necessary staffing components. The proposed CDC-NPCR Workload Management Study is needed to establish efficient staffing guidelines. The central cancer registry environment is changing quickly and an assessment of staffing at this point in time will be critical to establishing the optimum staffing component for the evolving central registry. As data collection for central registries becomes increasingly complex and de-centralized, a thorough study of cancer registry staffing patterns is essential to define the expanding skill sets needed for central cancer registries. Staffing models derived in the past for hospital-based cancer registries have no relevance in a population based cancer registry, and data based on central registry staffing patterns is essential.

Sponsoring Organizations

Canadian Association of Provincial Cancer Agencies • Canadian Partnership Against Cancer • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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The population-based cancer registries in the US support and applaud your endeavors through the Workload Management Study. The information derived from such a study will help us to ensure that adequate staffing can be established and/or maintained in central registries across the country. On behalf of the NAACCR Membership, we thank you for initiating the Workload Management Study and we look forward to the results.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy A. Kohler".

Betsy A. Kohler, MPH, CTR
Executive Director