Cancer Registries: An Essential Tool in America's War on Cancer

Over 2 million cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the U.S. in 2025. Population-based cancer registries in individual states, in partnership with the Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program and the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR),[1] will collect information on **all** of these diagnoses. Because of this information, we can answer:

- **WHO** is getting cancer?
- **WHAT** types of cancers are being diagnosed?
- **WHERE** are larger burdens of cancer found?
- **WHEN** are screening and other prevention strategies working?
- **HOW** uniformly are novel therapies being adopted, and how well are they working?

The only way that Americans can measure progress in the fight against cancer is through data collected by cancer registries. Because of the U.S. cancer registration system, we know:

- 1 in 3 Americans will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime.
- 1 in 5 deaths in men and women are due to cancer each year.
- Childhood cancer survival has improved over the last half century, to over 90% for some cancers.
- Rates of colorectal cancer have increased over 30% among young adults in the past 20 years.
- Death rates from uterine cancer have increased by 30% in the past 20 years.

What's needed

Cancer registries need **stable and robust funding** for America's cancer registration system through the **National Cancer Institute's SEER Program** and the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's NPCR**.

What happens without cancer registries?

- Weakening America's ability to fight cancer effectively – we can't manage what we can't measure!
- Interruptions in data collection and reporting, causing delays in recognizing emerging cancer trends and treatment gaps.
- Stalling research breakthroughs, including for cancers occurring in children and young adults.
- Loss of cancer burden data to guide efficient allocation of healthcare resources at cancer treatment centers.
- Inability to develop national and tailored state-specific cancer prevention and control strategies.
- Inability to respond to constituent concerns about cancer risk in their community.
- Undermining Congressional initiatives including counting veterans' cancer; Childhood Cancer Survivorship; Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act; and the National Firefighter Registry. These efforts rely on cancer registry data to track progress and target investments for maximum impact.

Benefits Provided by Robust Data Collection at Central Cancer Registries

- Critical data for evidence-based policymaking and efficient allocation of health resources.
- Advances and innovation in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and patient quality of life.
- Ability to identify cost effective prevention and screening efforts, saving billions of healthcare dollars.
- Quantifying advancements in survival among all Americans, including pediatric cancer patients.
- Prolonging lives and improving quality of life through earlier detection and better care.

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[1] The National Cancer Act of 1971 led to the creation of the SEER Program; the Cancer Registries Amendment Act of 1992 led to creating and enhancing state cancer registries to achieve true nation-wide cancer registry coverage.