Facts about the Missouri Cancer Registry and Research Center:

Who is required to report cancer cases?
Health care facilities, including hospitals, pathology laboratories, ambulatory surgery centers, free standing cancer clinics and treatment centers, long-term care facilities and physician offices, are required by law to provide basic information about cancer cases diagnosed and/or treated in Missouri to the Missouri Cancer Registry (192.650-192.657 RSMo).

How is confidentiality handled?
The Missouri Cancer Registry and Research Center maintains strict confidentiality. According to HIPAA privacy regulations, the MCR-ARC is a public health authority authorized by law to collect and receive information for the purpose of preventing and controlling disease, injury or disability.

A covered entity such as a hospital or physician’s office can disclose information to the MCR-ARC without specific individual informed consent. However, the identities of patients or specific facilities/physicians are not released by the MCR-ARC without written consent from the individual or facility/physician.

Without greater involvement of non-hospital sources, case completeness and data quality will suffer
To assist you in reporting cancer data, MCR-ARC will:

- Collaborate with the MO HIT Assistance Center to ensure that standard race and ethnicity variables are included in vendor software
- Survey healthcare organizations regarding methods for collecting and reporting race and ethnicity data
- Provide training to healthcare organizations on collecting and reporting of race and ethnicity information
- Perform audits of reporting facilities for race and ethnicity data reporting in accordance with requirements of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR)
- Use information from audits to report back to facilities on the quality of their race and ethnicity data

Data collected by MCR-ARC are used to:

- Study the burden of cancer in Missouri populations
- Conduct epidemiological and clinical research studies
- Look at trends in cancer incidence by stage at diagnosis, age, race/ethnicity, etc.
- Disseminate information for planning and early detection programs
- Respond to state and local questions and concerns about cancer
- Provide information to legislators, health professionals and the public