

2015 CANCER REGISTRY SUCCESS STORY

STORY TITLE:

Sharing the Gold

STATE REGISTRY AND AUTHOR NAME(S):

Missouri Cancer Registry (MCR)

Nancy H. Rold, BA, CTR and Jeannette Jackson-Thompson, MSPH, PhD

SUMMARY:

Because the usefulness of cancer surveillance data depends on complete and timely assessment of cancer incidence in a population, it is essential that facilities reporting cases to a central cancer registry do so in an efficient manner. In the current economic climate, hospital registrars are charged to do more with fewer resources. With added pressures on their time, many lack the incentive to stay current in their casefinding, abstracting or submissions to the central registry. Late or incomplete annual data from hospitals could affect the ability of the central registry to earn gold certification from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) and meet NPCR data quality requirements. This could impact the usefulness of the data for national statistical reports as well as for public health surveillance and research.

CHALLENGE:

Our challenge was to provide an incentive for hospital registries to comply with our reporting standards: 1) 95% completeness by July 15 and 2) submissions in each month or quarter as dictated by hospital size. Baseline analysis revealed that only 9 percent of reporting hospitals had met these criteria in 2011.

SOLUTION:

We researched solutions and travelled to the Alabama State Cancer Registry on a 2011 NAACCR Mentor Fellowship grant in part to observe their program. We then designed a Gold-level Compliance Certificate for MCR to award to hospitals that comply annually with our standards (noted above). We introduced the new incentive at the

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2012 annual meeting of the Missouri State Tumor Registrars Association (MoSTRA), a year in advance of implementation, to give delinquent facilities lead time to put processes in place to comply. We also promoted the new recognition program via our monthly newsletters.

RESULTS:

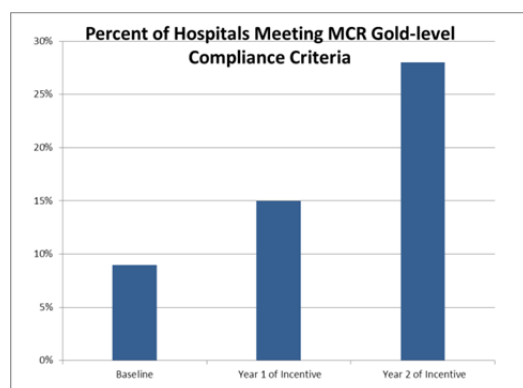
For 2013 cases, 15 percent of hospitals met both the timeliness and completeness standards and qualified for a Gold-level Compliance Certificate. We feel that a 66 percent increase over baseline was a great first step that required very little central registry effort to achieve. Hospital registrars and administrators took pride in having a recognition certificate to display. In turn, the Missouri Cancer Registry (MCR) took pride in meeting NPCR requirements and maintaining its Gold certification from NAACCR for the eleventh consecutive year (with another Gold and three Silvers since MCR's first submission in 2001 for 1998 data).

SUSTAINING SUCCESS:

State law prohibits us from publicly recognizing the awarded registries as role models. However, we continue to encourage other hospitals that were *almost* in compliance to aim higher in the next year. The reporting compliance letters they received last year read: "Facilities that met timeliness measures *and* were at least 95% complete for the year on July 15 are eligible for a Gold-level Compliance Certificate from MCR.

Congratulate yourselves if your processes already put you in a position to qualify. If not, you have some lead time now to make improvements for future years."

Compliance for 2014 reporting improved to 28 percent. This is an increase of 87 percent over the previous year. Sharing the gold through hospital registry awards has been a sustainable success story for MCR-ARC.



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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Nancy Rold, Operations Manager

573-882-7236

roldn@missouri.edu