

The CDC Public Health Cancer Genomics Program: An Overview

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Program Overview

- **Program funding began with a 3-year cooperative agreement in 2011**
- **Funded 3 state programs:**
 - Michigan
 - Oregon
 - Georgia
- **In 2014, a new 5-year funding opportunity was announced**
- **Funded 5 state programs:**
 - Michigan
 - Oregon
 - Utah
 - Connecticut
 - Colorado

Program Overview

- **Cooperative agreement funds state-health departments to conduct activities in cancer genomics, in 3-key areas:**
 - Public/provider education
 - Surveillance
 - Policy or Systems change
- **Programs are also required to:**
 - Develop partnerships with local organizations or health systems
 - Work with the other CDC-funded cancer programs in their states
 - Evaluate their program

Example Activities: Education

- **Development of an online CME module for physicians, nurse practitioners, PA's**
- **Virtual, case-based lunch and learn with primary care physicians (Project ECHO)**
- **Genetic counseling mentor pilot program**
- **Develop programs and educational outreach opportunities with vulnerable populations**
 - Jewish college students
 - African-American church attendees

Example activities: Surveillance

- **Development of cancer genomics or family health history modules for state BRFSS**
- **Work with state cancer registry to describe burden of hereditary cancer in state**
- **Assess feasibility of collecting BRCA testing data as part of cancer registry abstraction**
- **Development of database to share data between genetic clinics to describe prevalence of BRCA testing in state**

Example Activities: Policy

- **Work with health insurance carriers in state to ensure that coverage policies for genetic counseling, testing, and risk management of high risk patients are evidence based**
- **Work with state Medicaid programs to ensure coverage of genetic counseling and testing**
- **Assist in the implementation of risk assessment for HOBC in screening programs**
- **Work with state government to cover cost of genetic counseling and testing for the uninsured**

CDC Public Health Cancer Genomics Program

- **Currently in year 2 of 5 year funding cycle**
- **Foster collaboration between programs and across other CDC programs**
 - Genomics Applications toolkit of the Office of Public Health Genomics
(<http://www.cdc.gov/genomics/implementation/toolkit/index.htm>)
- **Leverage resources across and between programs**
- **Facilitate cross-cutting initiatives or activities**
- **Disseminate resources or program products**

Future Directions & Emerging Issues

- **Change from single site testing to full cancer panel testing**
 - More variants of unknown significance
 - Change how we communicate with the public/providers
- **Calls for universal screening for BRCA genes**
 - Calls for all individuals of Ashkenazi Jewish descent to be tested
 - Calls for general population testing
- **Risk stratified screening**
 - Lack of guidelines for screening among high risk patients
- **Laboratory quality in genetic testing**
 - Several new laboratories
- **Population-based data**
 - Need for better population-based data
 - Increasing cost of surveillance
- **Access to care**
 - Shortage of genetic counselors
 - Disparities in access
 - Payment/coverage for services

Questions?

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