

CANCER REGISTRIES: Improving Cancer Prevention and Control

BY THE NUMBERS

19 million

19 million new cancer cases are expected per year by 2025

2/3

About 2/3 of cancer deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries

20%

Only about 20% of low- and middle-income countries have the data they need to reduce the burden of cancer

The Issue

Cancer is a significant global public health burden and cause of suffering and death worldwide. One way to help reduce this burden is to create registries that collect data on cancer cases in a given population. Data is essential for planning, monitoring, evaluating, and improving cancer prevention and control efforts.

Population-based cancer registries are the main source of cancer data and provide public health officials with important information about cancer in a specific region, including how many people are affected, who are affected, the treatment they get, and what stage of cancer they have.

“Knowing the size and nature of the cancer problem serves as an important stimulus to implement and change policy. Currently, only five low- and middle-income countries are equipped with the necessary population-based data for cancer control action.”

Dr. Freddie Bray and Dr. Isabelle Soerjomataram, IARC

Medical records or patient records are one of many data sources used for cancer registration.

CDC's Response

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization and other partners to establish six regional support centers (hubs) that provide training and assistance to cancer registries around the world. CDC supports these centers in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa and is working with partners to develop a regional hub in the Caribbean.



CDC'S Response (continued)

The hub, located at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) headquarters in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, will help countries and territories in the area grow their capacity to register cancer cases. Lessons learned from this regional approach could be applied to U.S. territories with a low number of cancer cases.

Since not much is known about the costs of setting up cancer registries in low- to middle- income countries, CDC is piloting a cost assessment tool in many of its partner countries. The tool estimates the resources required to operate and improve cancer registries, including funding for the registries, how much it costs to register a cancer case, and factors that affect the efficiency of cancer registries.

This information can help public health leaders to make appropriate decisions about including registries in their national cancer plans and improve existing cancer registries all over the world.

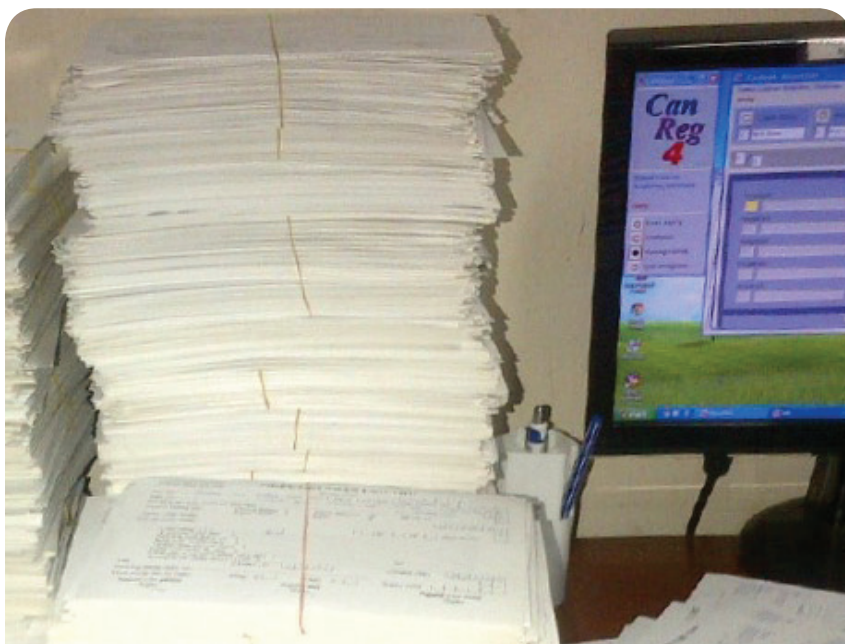


CDC, the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) work together to plan the Caribbean hub of cancer registries.

Our Partners

- Caribbean Public Health Agency
- International Agency for Research on Cancer
- North American Association of Central Cancer Registries
- National Institutes for Health, National Cancer Institute

For further information, please visit: www.cdc.gov/cancer/international/



Electronic cancer registry in Thailand.