TRACKING CANCER IN LOUISIANA

MISSION >

SAVING LIVES WITH DATA

You can't fix a problem until you know what and where it is.

The award-winning Louisiana Tumor Registry (LTR) is a statewide population-based registry that compiles information to help guide policies for cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, and survivorship. LTR data help reduce the state’s cancer burden and disparities, and improve the survival and quality of life for cancer patients, past, current, and future. LTR data users include:
- Office of Public Health
- Cancer prevention/control programs
- Cancer researchers
- Physicians, medical practitioners
- Healthcare planning offices
- Public health community
- Cancer patients

High-quality and timely cancer data is made possible by collaboration with facilities diagnosing and treating cancer patients through direct reporting, as well as remote electronic access to medical records.

LTR’s work is critical to the state, as Louisiana has one of the highest cancer death rates in the U.S.

AWARDS >

- 1st place awards for the last 9 years from National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results program.
- Registry of Excellence or Distinction since 2013 from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Program of Cancer Registries.

ECONOMIC IMPACT >

LTR BRINGS IN ALMOST $4M IN DIRECT FUNDING EACH YEAR

LTR is mainly funded by the CDC and the NCI, which provides a 3-to-1 match to state funds, with the requirement that the state provide the basic infrastructure in a mandated cost-sharing arrangement. LTR has not received a state general fund budget increase in 30 years despite the dramatic increase in data items collected per case (from 63 to 542 data items) and the rise in the number of facilities from which the LTR must collect data which includes hospitals, treatment centers, physician offices, etc.

CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS >

CANCER INCIDENCE IN LOUISIANA BY CENSUS TRACT

The LA state legislature mandated that census-tract level cancer incidence data be published through a bill passed during the 2017 Legislative Session. LTR convened a team and embarked on a lengthy process to produce a reliable report. (Why is it so difficult? One example: people who list a P.O. Box as an address must be tracked and linked to their specific residential address.) The first annual report was released in March 2018. Overall, 228 census tracts had statistically significantly higher incidence rates for all cancers combined and/or for one or more specific cancer types. LTR is currently working on the second volume of this report, which will include additional years of data.

DATA VISUALIZATION PROJECTS

Geospatial mapping has been used to visualize the colorectal cancer burden in our state to inform initiatives of the Louisiana Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (LCCRT). Future projects include a user-friendly data visualization tool for LTR’s website, which will allow interactive querying of Louisiana cancer statistics.

TACL COLLABORATION

Taking Aim at Cancer in Louisiana (TACL), a statewide cancer initiative to improve cancer outcomes, utilized LTR data to assess the cancer landscape in order to identify the most pressing problems in our state. LTR’s director, Dr. Xiao-Cheng Wu, serves as the Chair of the TACL Data Committee, allowing LTR to continue its contribution to this important initiative.

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