

National Cancer Registrars Week Spotlights Registrars' Important Role in Fight Against Cancer

CRANSTON, R.I. – Apr. 9, 2008 – More than 25 cancer registrars work in health care organization across our state. This week (April 7-11), these employees are recognized during National Cancer Registrars Week.

Cancer registrars collect and maintain data related to the Rhode Island cancer patient population. The information is submitted to state and national cancer registries for use in research, treatment, and prevention initiatives, enabling cancer programs to accurately determine cancer patient populations, measure outcomes of treatment and survival, and formulate plans for quality improvement. Valuable cancer data is central to the nation's cancer fighting efforts and cancer registrars are the first link in capturing data on patients diagnosed with cancer.

“Cancer registrars in Rhode Island deserve recognition,” said David L. Rousseau, director of the Rhode Island Statewide Cancer Registry. “It is because of their hard work and determination that we can provide accurate and reliable data that helps to improve treatment and prevention efforts.”

The Rhode Island Statewide Cancer Registry is funded by the Rhode Island Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Program of Cancer Registries, and has been operating under the auspices of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island since 1986. The Rhode Island database contains 19 complete years of data including nearly 140,000 cases diagnosed in the state. In 2004, NPCR commended the registry for an “outstanding result” of 98.8% completeness and an “excellent result” of 96.7% for data accuracy. In addition, the registry has been awarded the “gold standard” by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries for eight consecutive years for meeting the highest standard in all six distinct criteria of data quality that were assessed.

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