

# South Dakota Cancer Registry

## South Dakota's Cancer Surveillance System

SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The South Dakota Cancer Registry (SDCR) is South Dakota's statewide cancer surveillance system. The SDCR is housed within the South Dakota Department of Health. The data collected by the SDCR are used to monitor cancer trends, target cancer control and prevention programs, provide a research base for studies into cancer causes, and to ultimately reduce death and illness due to cancer.

In 2001, the SDCR came into existence and is obligated to collect cancer cases diagnosed from that year forward, regardless of the vital status of the cancer patient. SDCL 1-43-11 through 1-43-18 requires all licensed hospitals, physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, pathology laboratories and free-standing radiology centers that detect, diagnose, or treat cancer in South Dakota to report required cases to the SDCR.

Malignant cancers diagnosed and/or treated in South Dakota must be reported to the SDCR, as well as benign brain and central nervous system tumors. The following cancers are NOT reportable: carcinoma *in situ* of the cervix (CIS), intraepithelial neoplasia of the cervix (CIN) and prostate (PIN) and basal or squamous cell carcinoma of the non-mucoepidermoid sites of the skin. The SDCR acknowledges and applauds the reporting efforts of the South Dakota medical community.

For each cancer patient diagnosed or treated within South Dakota, the registry collects patient demographics, disease specific details, and all treatment information. Adherence to national standards and guidelines assures quality and consistency in case reporting. The SDCR is certified by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, which establishes measures for excellence in the areas of completeness, quality and timeliness.

The majority of cancer cases in South Dakota are abstracted by a certified tumor registrar (CTR) who is specially trained and nationally certified in cancer surveillance. Cancer data collection standards continually evolve to support technological advances in cancer diagnostics and treatments. To keep abreast of the ever-changing standards, the SDCR partners with hospital-based cancer registries for continued cancer surveillance educational and training opportunities.

Strict security measures assure confidentiality of patient and institutional records. The SDCR complies with all applicable federal and state laws related to access of protected health information.

SDCR data are used by health planners, epidemiologists, physicians, hospitals, legislators, researchers, and others to:

1. Monitor the incidence and mortality of cancer to detect potential public health problems;
2. Inform and educate by providing descriptive data on cancer incidence and mortality about risks, prevention, and early detection of cancers known to be elevated in their communities;
3. Guide decisions about how to use public-funded cancer control resources by more accurately targeting intervention resources for communities and patients and their families; and
4. Respond to public concerns.

Released publications are available at the SDCR website <http://doh.sd.gov/SDCR/>. For additional information, contact the South Dakota Department of Health at 605-773-3361. The SDCR is funded with a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.