Background
Measuring cancer control performance was identified as a priority at the very inception of the New Brunswick Cancer Network.

Objective
To produce a list of indicators in the areas of prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and end-of-life care at health zone level.

Method
A list of cancer system performance indicators has been developed by Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) in collaboration with experts at national and provincial level. NBCN adapted CPAC’s list and consulted with local clinical experts and stakeholders. We also added some disease specific indicators, such as circumferential resection margin status for colorectal cancer, surgical margin status in radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer, etc.

To produce these indicators, a large number of databases were used: New Brunswick Provincial Cancer Registry, Provincial Cancer Treatment Access Repository, New Brunswick Breast Cancer Screening Service Database, New Brunswick Cervical Cancer Prevention and Screening Data Repository, etc.

Results
A set of 28 indicators have been produced and published in the first ever New Brunswick’s cancer system performance report. Indicators addressed prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and end-of-life areas of cancer control continuum.

Conclusion
This report provides valuable information that can be used by stakeholders and health professionals to assess and improve their practices. It also enhances the information value of databases by conducting data linkages. This is a collaborative effort with multiple partners in the Regional Health Authorities.

Reference

The New Brunswick Context
- 750,000 population
- 2 Regional Health Authorities; Eight Health Zones
- 4,800 incident cases and 1,930 cancer deaths
- Lung, colorectal, breast and prostate represent 57% of all cancers