Abstract

Cancer registry data have long been used for surveillance and research purposes, but they are increasingly being used in reports that speak to the effectiveness of the cancer control system, from prevention to palliation.

The incorporation of these data into public and policy reports is becoming an expectation of many cancer registries.

Objectives

The new Manitoba Cancer System Performance Report:

- Uses cancer registry and other data to report a wide range of indicators.
- Has an engaging easy-to-read format.
- Contains reliable data that are already published, or are routinely cited, and adds new data where there are gaps.
- Uses indicator definitions that are used by at least one other partner (provincial or national).
- Shows trends or benchmarks to provide an indication of whether we are improving in a particular cancer-related area.

Where we present information on time-trend arrows summarize the patterns, for example:

- Increases of 10% or more, little change, or a drop of 10% or more.
- Colour shows whether the trend is good (green), neutral (yellow) or needs to improve (red).

Methods

CancerCare Manitoba is the provincial cancer agency in Manitoba (Canada), responsible for the delivery of cancer services, research and education for the population.

The new System Performance Report uses standard cancer surveillance measures integrated with measures from other sources and clinical- and policy-relevant text to tell the story of the cancer experience in Manitoba.

Results

Cancer registry data are featured in metrics of the impact of cancer using traditional surveillance statistics (incidence, mortality, survival, projections).

Incorporating stage and treatment data allows for the production of measures of treatment rates, concordance with clinical practice guidelines, the prevalence of biomarkers and other cancer control ‘success’ indicators. Variability is shown over time, by region and by population characteristics.

Conclusions

The availability of population-wide data is an asset that is increasingly being used to monitor and report on the success of cancer services. This raises the profile of the cancer registry and increases demands for comprehensive and timely data.

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