

2022 NPCR MASSACHUSETTS SUCCESS STORY

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Improving the Visualization and Presentation of Massachusetts Cancer Registry Data to Increase Data Dissemination and Use

National Program of Cancer Registries SUCCESS STORY

SUMMARY

In 2021 the Massachusetts Cancer Registry (MCR) epidemiology staff decided to redesign their annual incidence and mortality statewide report. This was the result of feedback that the previous report which had been in use for several years was too long and not easy to understand, specifically for the public. The report mainly consisted of tables and graphs with limited text explanation. To implement the redesign of the new report, the MCR conducted an extensive review of reports from other states and central cancer registries. In addition, the MCR held meetings with internal partners at DPH including the Massachusetts Cancer Control Program (MCCCP), the Massachusetts Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (MBCCP), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), and the Bureau of Environmental Health to get their feedback for report design improvement.

CHALLENGE

- The previous report was too long and difficult to understand due to many data tables with limited text explanation.
- How could the report be redesigned to be more user-friendly to encourage increased use for cancer control efforts?

SOLUTION

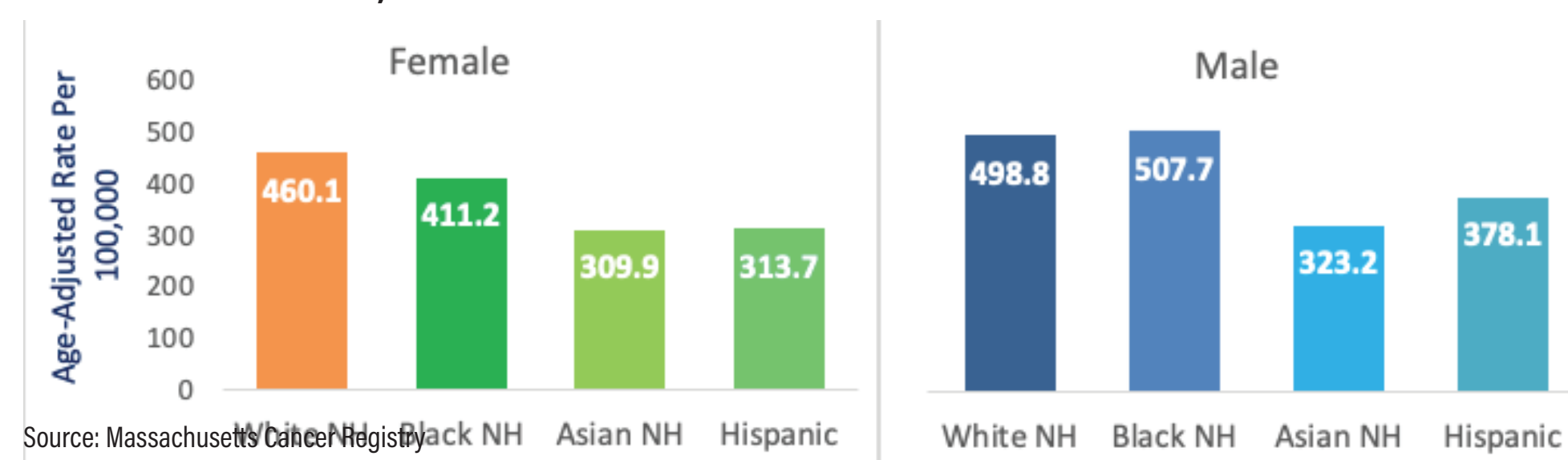
The MCR collaborated with colleagues in MCCCP, MBCCP and the Bureau of Environmental Health on how best to present the data and to shorten the length of the report. The new report includes the following new sections: preface, basic cancer facts, stage at diagnosis for selected cancers, cancer incidence and mortality by county, cancer disparities and health equity, and data sources and online visualization tools. Each table or chart is accompanied by text to explain the data.

RESULTS

The new annual incidence and mortality statewide report includes easy to comprehend tables and figures as well as text explaining the data. It is also shorter than the previous report. Below is an example from the Cancer Disparities and Health Equity section.

Cancer Disparities and Health Equity

FIGURE 21. AGE-ADJUSTED CANCER INCIDENCE RATES IN MASSACHUSETTS BY SEX AND RACE/ETHNICITY, 2014-2018



Females Incidence

- White non-Hispanic (NH) females had significantly higher age-adjusted incidence rates of all cancers combined than Black NH, Asian NH, and Hispanic females.
- Asian NH females had the lowest age-adjusted incidence rate for all cancers combined than other racial/ethnic groups.

Males Incidence

- Among males, Black NH and White NH had significantly higher age-adjusted incidence rates for all cancers combined than Asian NH and Hispanic males.
- There was no significant difference in the incidence rates for all cancers combined between White NH and Black NH males.
- Asian NH males had the lowest age-adjusted incidence rate for all cancers combined.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS

The report is currently undergoing final editing. We look forward to approval for public release and web posting soon. The 2014-2018 report will serve as a template for all our future MCR incidence and mortality statewide reports. Based on this template the 2015-2019 statewide report is already in preparation!

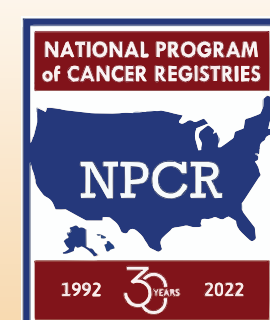
STORY QUOTE

"This new Section is great, so well written and the right tone/level for a general audience. Great job!"

REGISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

617-624-5662
Massachusetts Cancer Registry

For more information about the Massachusetts cancer incidence and mortality data, readers can visit the Massachusetts Cancer Registry Web Query at: <https://www.cancer-rates.info/ma/>



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
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