

Program Name: South Dakota Cancer Registry**Title of Success Story:** South Dakota Cancer Registry Assists South Dakota Communities with Community Health Needs Assessments**Public Health Problem:**

Two South Dakota communities, Eureka and Wessington Springs, needed to complete Community Health Needs Assessments to advance health equity and improve health outcomes in their communities. There was a perception in both communities that elevated cancer incidence rates existed.

Use of Surveillance:

The South Dakota Cancer Registry (SDCR) provided each community with tailored age-adjusted cancer incidence and mortality rates for the cancers and cancer-related deaths that actually occurred in each of the communities.

Collaboration:

Avera Health which is the healthcare entity in the two communities contacted the SDCR with concerns about the elevated cancer incidence rates in both communities. After the SDCR provided Avera Health with the accurate cancer incidence and cancer mortality data, it was realized that the community perceptions were not accurate and elevated cancer incidence did not exist in either community.

Public Health Outcome:

South Dakota communities can rely on the SDCR to provide accurate, quality, and complete cancer data. This will allow them to make decisions for their communities based on data. Community resources can be directed toward the critical health issues that exist in the communities and not perceptions.