

# 2017 SOUTH DAKOTA NPCR SUCCESS STORY

## STORY TITLE:

[The South Dakota Cancer Registry Partners with South Dakota Health Link](#)

## STATE REGISTRY AND AUTHOR NAME(S):

[South Dakota Cancer Registry – Kay Dosch](#)

## SUMMARY:

The South Dakota Cancer Registry (SDCR) and South Dakota Health Link (SDHL) formed a partnership to improve cancer surveillance data throughout the State of South Dakota. SDHL serves hospitals, federally qualified health centers, primary care providers, specialists, labs, pharmacies, public health entities, and state agencies with a secure mechanism to share protected-health information between entities.

The partnership between the SDCR and SDHL initially began in the spring of 2017. SDHL offers secure, single-point, information exchange that saves time, reduces costs, and enhances the privacy of patients. It ensures that real-time health information is where it needs to be, when it needs to be there. As SDHL shared its capabilities with the SDCR, the SDCR quickly recognized the internal benefits for its own use and also the potential benefits for the hospital-based cancer registries throughout South Dakota. The SDCR approached the Avera Cancer Institute Cancer Registry in Sioux Falls to pilot the program. After the program was successfully piloted at the Avera Cancer Institute, the SDCR coordinated the expansion to offer SDHL services to all of the hospital-based cancer registries in South Dakota.

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## CHALLENGE:

- 1) As cancer surveillance data is compiled, additional patient-level health information is needed from other entities for completion of cancer abstracts. The needed patient-level information must be available securely, accurately, and expeditiously.
- 2) Hospital-based cancer registries accredited through the Commission on Cancer (CoC) are required to measure cancer care quality and to monitor treatment patterns and outcomes for patients. Compliance of this standard is achieved through long-term patient follow-up for analytic cancer cases. The process of following cancer patients for the remainder of their lives is challenging and many patients are lost to follow-up.

## SOLUTION:

- 1) SDHL approached the SDCR to offer its services. SDHL provides a secure mechanism to share protected-health information between entities. This information exchange includes hospitals, federally qualified health centers, primary care providers, specialists, labs, pharmacies, public health entities, and state agencies. The SDCR recognized that the hospital-based cancer registries could also benefit from the services provided by SDHL. The SDCR coordinated the pilot at the Avera Cancer Institute Cancer Registry in Sioux Falls. After the successful pilot, the SDCR coordinated the expansion of SDHL services to all of the hospital-based cancer registries throughout South Dakota.
- 2) To assist hospital-based cancer registries with the long-term patient follow-up process, the SDHL has an Event Notification feature. This feature allows for flexible, user-configured, real-time notification of events, e.g., hospital admissions or discharges, patient deaths, and patient encounters. This monitors the health status of specified patients for follow-up and the information has customized delivery for preference and efficiency.

## RESULTS:

The partnership between SDHL and the SDCR led to the availability of more complete and improved cancer surveillance data. SDHL services were offered initially to the CoC accredited hospital-based cancer registries throughout South Dakota and eventually to the non-CoC hospital-based cancer registries. By the end of 2017, 88% of the cancer registries in South Dakota were trained and using SDHL services.

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## SUSTAINING SUCCESS:

The primary objective of the partnership between SDHL and the SDCR is to allow for more cancer registries in South Dakota to use the services of SDHL. This objective is measured by the usage of SDHL services by South Dakota cancer registries. The SDCR coordinated this project with the promotion of the SDHL services to the hospital-based cancer registries and arranged for SDHL to demonstrate its services. This has led to the use of SDHL services in 88% of the cancer registries within less than one year of time. By the end of 2018, the SDCR plans to have 100% of the cancer registries in South Dakota using the SDHL services to improve completion and quality of cancer surveillance data in South Dakota.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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South Dakota Health Link website - <https://www.sdhealthlink.org/>

South Dakota Cancer Registry website - <http://getscreened.sd.gov/registry/data/>

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