Letter from the Alaska Native Tumor Registry Director

Hello, and welcome to another issue of the Alaska Native Tumor Registry (ANTR) Newsletter!

This is our second newsletter, and we’re excited once again to be sharing our news with you. We have been busy since our last newsletter in February! At the end of that month, we completed our final data submission of the grant year to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), after which they analyze the quality of our data and tell us how we did. We’re very pleased to report that, with your help, we achieved 14/14 of the data quality goals set for us by the NCI, which earns us a first place data quality award! This is the first time in the history of the ANTR that we have won this award for data quality, and we thank you for your contributions to ensuring that our data are complete and of excellent quality.

In other news, Teri visited the National Cancer Registrars Association meeting in New Orleans, LA in February, where she learned a lot about the upcoming changes in the way cancer registries record certain variables. In June, Sarah visited the North American Association for Central Cancer Registries meeting in Pittsburg, where she met with staff from other cancer registries and learned about their ongoing research and quality improvement activities. She also presented the results of two research studies that use ANTR data. (You can see more about some of the research ANTR is involved in in the Cancer Data Use section of the newsletter!).

As always, we hope this newsletter is interesting and informative for you. Our goal is to give you a little glimpse into what we do with the data you share, and the important work that’s being conducted on behalf of Alaska Native (AN) people here at the ANTR. Let us know if you have any questions on anything you see here, or if there’s anything you’d like to see in a future edition. And of course, please feel free to share this information with any tribal- and community-health partners who may be interested.

Sincerely,
Sarah Nash, ANTR Director
Your Voice: A Note from a Tribal Health Organization

“We get many questions from our patients regarding the impact of cancer in our region, as well as across the state. This past June, Dr. Sarah Nash presented at the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center in Fairbanks, and spoke directly to our providers and support staff. Dr. Nash explained how we compared to other Alaskan regions and against the nation as a whole, in the areas of cancer incidence and modifiable risk factors (i.e. Tobacco use, HPV vaccination, Obesity rates, etc.). Having data specific to our region, was incredibly useful in revealing that there were no significant variations in cancer incidence within our region. Moving forward, this data will be useful in focusing our prevention efforts where they are the most needed, and encourage our providers to be mindful of the most prevalent cancers facing our patient population. We are truly grateful for our partnership with the Alaska Native Tumor Registry, and hope to continue to learn and improve patient outcomes through future collaboration. We have already invited Dr. Nash to come back next year for an update!”

– Louise Thurmond, RN Navigator & Jenni Dewar, Prevention Coordinator
Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, Cancer Care Navigation & Prevention

Do you have a story to share? We’d love to feature YOU and how you use ANTR data in your programs.
Cancer Data Use

In this edition of the newsletter, we are highlighting the results of a study that was recently published in Cancer Health Disparities. The study used data from the Alaska Native Tumor Registry, as well as information from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey to estimate the number and proportion of cancers among AN people that could be potentially be prevented if we were to eliminate exposure to the leading cancer risk factors smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, and moderate or heavy alcohol use. We found that removing these four risk factors could help prevent many cancers. Quitting smoking is the most important way to prevent cancer among AN people, but reducing obesity, alcohol use, and increasing exercise would also be beneficial.

Number of cancers that could be prevented in a ten year period if the exposure (smoking/obesity/physical inactivity/moderate or heavy alcohol use) was removed from the population.

Source

The ANTR Digital Story

My name is Iona, and I’ve been the Program Assistant for the ANTR for four years. Sarah asked me to put together a digital story to share with people what the Tumor Registry is and what it does. This project was important to me because a month after I started at the Tumor Registry I was diagnosed with breast cancer. My diagnosis has given me more drive to ensure that the cancer data we collect and maintain is complete and accurate.

View the video on our website: anthctoday.org/epicenter/antr.html
Have You Seen Our Website?

Alaska Native Epidemiology Center

The Alaska Native Tumor Registry

The Alaska Native Tumor Registry (ANTR) is a collection of cancer information going back to 1969 on all Alaska Native and American Indian individuals living in Alaska at the time of their diagnosis. The mission of the ANTR is to contribute to the wellness of Alaska Native people by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating cancer information.

What is a Cancer Registry?
- Cancer Data
- Cancer Surveillance
- Data Use and Dissemination
- Studies of Cancer
- Our History
- The SEER Program
- Resources
- Community Outreach and Education

Want to receive our newsletter via email?
Contact us at antr@anthc.org to be added to our newsletter email list.

Remember, you can find all of our cancer-related reports and factsheets online at anthctoday.org/epicenter/antr.html