

# Colorado

## Using an Internet-Based Query System to Provide Public Access to State and County Cancer Data

### Public Health Problem

Each year in Colorado, more than 16,000 cancers are diagnosed, and an estimated 6,000 people die of cancer. In the United States, cancer data are regularly collected, analyzed, reported, and transferred at the state and national levels, but not always at the county level.

### Program Example

The Colorado Central Cancer Registry collaborated with the Colorado Health Data Advisory Committee to develop an Internet-based query system called the Colorado Health Information Dataset (CoHID). CoHID's governing board, which includes representatives from both local and state health agencies, sets priorities for new modules and features to CoHID. Health providers and the public can use the system to access cancer incidence and death statistics as well as Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data on health-related and screening behaviors. Tables of cancer counts and rates can be produced by year, county, age, sex, race, cancer site, and stage of disease at diagnosis. To allow easy analysis and customization of data queries, the site has a real-time help screen that allows users to better understand the data, interpret results, and make successful inquiries.

### Implications and Impact

Access to population-based health data at the county level is crucial for monitoring health status and planning interventions for prevention and early detection of cancer. CoHID allows users to analyze the stage of cancer at diagnosis. In addition, CoHID complements routine publications of the Colorado Central Cancer Registry and serves a wide variety of data users. This system can be developed and used as a model by other state health departments. In addition, the data can also be used to identify cancer patterns among race, sex, and age-groups and lead to prevention and early detection measures that may save lives.

### Contact Information

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