

Midwest Data Partners' Workshop

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The University of Kansas Cancer Center

1. Background

National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Cancer Centers are charged with understanding catchment area data. This is often a task completed in silo from other cancer centers. The University of Kansas Cancer Center's (KUCC) group Organize and Prioritize Trends to Inform the KU Cancer Center (OPTIK), and the Masonic Cancer Alliance (MCA) hosted a Midwest Data Workshop in February of 2025 with the vision to build collaboration with catchment area data experts from Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska across state health departments, state cancer registries, and NCI-Designated Cancer Centers.

2. Goals

The Midwest Data Workshop was the first workshop hosted specifically to discuss collaborative opportunities to address gaps related to cancer control with data-driven approaches in our Midwestern states. This geographic region has many similarities regarding geography, rural and urban populations, cancer burden, risk factors, and data usage. Coming together allows us to discuss data sharing practices, eliminate common barriers, better understand the cancer center catchment areas while potentially harmonizing requests for data to increase understanding of cancer outcomes and disparities impacting the Midwest.

3. Solutions and Methods

The workshop took place at the University of Kansas Medical Center and hosted over 40 participants, including state epidemiologists, cancer registries, public health faculty and staff, data scientists, and community outreach and engagement offices across the Midwest. Presenters represented the catchment area experts and national agencies such as the United States (U.S.) Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Census Bureau. Starting in mid-2024, the Midwest Data Workshop Planning Committee was guided by leadership from KUCC and representatives from each of the four states, including the University of Iowa, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Siteman Cancer Center.

4. Outcomes

The workshop led to the creation of three work groups in the following areas:

- Catchment area surveys
- Small area data estimates
- All-claims payers' data

Groups 2 and 3 combined to address both small area data estimates and all claims payer data.

5. Lessons Learned and Future Directions

These groups will continue regional collaborations and projects to improve data sharing and data-driven solutions that address cancer-related challenges in the Midwest. The 2026 workshop will be hosted by the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Figure: 2025 Midwest Data Partners' Workshop Information

The graphic is a promotional poster for a workshop. It features a dark green header with the title 'MIDWEST DATA PARTNERS' WORKSHOP' in white. Below the header are two images: a field of wheat at sunset and a close-up of a sunflower. A QR code is positioned to the right of the sunflower image. A brown text box contains the workshop's focus. A table provides the date, location, and time. A green banner with a white link is below the table. The bottom of the graphic displays logos for participating organizations: Nebraska Medicine, Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, The University of Kansas Cancer Center, OPTIK, PECAD, Siteman Cancer Center, Iowa Health Care, and MCA.

MIDWEST DATA PARTNERS' WORKSHOP

This workshop will focus on solutions to address common barriers in understanding our catchment areas in rural states and identifying and/or expanding cross collaborations.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025	2146 W 39th Ave Kansas City, KS 66103 HEB G205	8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
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Visit the link below or scan the QR code above to express your interest!

<https://bit.ly/2025MidwestDataPartnersWorkshop>

Nebraska Medicine | FRED & PAMELA BUFFETT CANCER CENTER | THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS CANCER CENTER | OPTIK | PECAD | SITEMAN CANCER CENTER | IOWA HEALTH CARE | MCA