THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
CANCER CENTER

NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center

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Background

- 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.

Methods

- 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.
- 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.
- 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, community outreach and engagement offices across the Midwest. Presenters represented the catchment area experts and national agencies such as the US Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Practical Applications

- The Workshop led to the creation of three workgroups in the following areas:
  - **Group 1: Catchment area surveys**
  - **Group 2: Small area data estimates**
  - **Group 3: All-claims payers' data**

- Groups 2 and 3 combined to address both small area data estimates and all claims payer data. The catchment area surveys group developed an approach to harmonize survey domains that will be tested in the four Midwest states. The workgroups will continue collaborations and projects to improve data sharing and data driven solutions to address cancer-related challenges in the Midwest.

Future Directions

- Next year's (2026) workshop will be hosted by the University of Nebraska Medical Center on April 30. This could be a recommended approach to expand regional collaborations with cancer centers and other partners.

Results

Midwest Data Workshop - Post-Workshop Evaluation Results

Summary Table	Count	Percent
Should we continue having a Midwest Data Workshop?		
Yes	17	89.5%
Indifferent	2	10.5%
Total Respondents	19	100.0%
The table talk discussions were valuable to my work		
Strongly Agree	9	47.4%
Agree	7	36.8%
Neutral	3	15.8%
Total Respondents	19	100.0%
I plan to use something I learned from this workshop		
Strongly Agree	14	73.7%
Agree	4	21.1%
Neutral	1	5.3%
Total Respondents	19	100.0%
I made new connections as a result of this workshop		
Strongly Agree	11	61.1%
Agree	7	38.9%
Total Respondents	18	100.0%
The workshop presenter(s) were knowledgeable and easy to understand		
Strongly Agree	10	58.8%
Agree	7	41.2%
Total Respondents	17	100.0%
I would recommend a workshop similar to this to a colleague		
Strongly Agree	13	68.4%
Agree	5	36.3%
Neutral	1	5.3%
Total Respondents	19	100.0%
The workshop venue and location met my expectations		
Strongly Agree	15	79.0%
Agree	2	10.5%
Neutral	2	10.5%
Total Respondents	19	100.0%
The communication I received about the workshop was adequate		
Strongly Agree	13	68.4%
Agree	5	26.3%
Neutral	1	5.3%
Total Respondents	19	100.0%

- **What is one takeaway from today's workshop you plan to bring back to your work?**
  - Working regionally to understand environmental exposures and cancer
  - Better classifying rural areas
  - Energized to work on more regional partnerships
  - Identified new and underutilized data resources available to the Midwest states

- **What additional organizations and/or community sectors should be included in future workshops?**
  - More tribal representation and focus
  - Increased representation from diverse communities
  - Get more students involved. If we want to advance the future of this work, we need to get buy-in from our students
  - Sociologists or community advocates