

Data You Can Use - Topics in Cancer Control and Prevention

4/26/2018

Obesity Related Cancers in Pennsylvania; Incidence, Research and Solutions

Questions and Answers

1. *Is the cancer registry is collecting information on body weight, and BMI at diagnosis, and if so how complete is the information?*

Wendy Aldinger, Pennsylvania Cancer Registry (PCR) provided this answer

Answer- The Pa Cancer Registry does not collect weight or BMI. For it to be meaningful we would need it to be a required item from the national standard setters, so that all states were collecting it the same way. I have not heard anything about these data items being added.

2. *What do you see as the future of weight management?*

Presenter – Dr. Sarwer

Answer- Given the number of Americans affected by obesity and weight-related health problems, it is important that all health care providers be positioned to help patients with weight control. Ideally, it would be great to see more providers properly assess and treat the issue. For others, providing appropriate evidenced-based referrals would be great. Looking to the future, it would be great to see the next generation of health care providers receive more education and training in the area of obesity.

3. *What can we do as a state cancer control program to promote weight management among cancer survivors?*

Presenter – Dr. Sarwer

Answer- Webinars like this are a great start. We need to continue to spread the word about the obesity-cancer relationship and find ways to encourage providers working with cancer survivors, who are already juggling numerous clinical concerns and issues, to learn strategies to have productive discussions about weight control with their patients. There is no easy solution, but the scope of the obesity problem has become so great, and the issues so significant, that we can no longer ignore the issue.

4. *How do you plan to continue the obesity control work with the new parameters of the SPAM and PPHFC CDC grants that we just released?*

Presenter – Tiffany Bransteitter

Answer- The Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity is applying for the 1807 SPAN grant to continue and expand upon the work described in this webinar. Due to the parameters of the SPAN grant, strategies to increase access to healthy foods and beverages will shift away from retail settings and to hospitals and community settings, i.e. concessions, worksites, meeting locations, vending etc. In addition, obesity prevention and control strategies are supported by the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.