

Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program

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Research Project Grant
(3-year project)*

Project Title: Florida Cancer Health Disparities: the FCDS/NCHS Cancer Linkage

Project Summary: Since 1986, over 1.8 million adults have participated in nationally representative health surveys of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), including the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). Collectively, these surveys contain substantial information on demographics, medical expenditures, health status, and health behaviors, including cancer specific and risk factors. In addition, there are periodic cancer supplements (e.g., screening behaviors), as well as mortality linkage. Our long-term objective is to seek R01 funding to create a Consortium to perform a data linkage with the 1.8 million records from these studies with all State cancer registries (including SEER). Using Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS) records, representing ~6 percent of total U.S. annual cancer incidence, we will establish the feasibility of developing such a Consortium by: 1) Comparing cancer-related Florida NHIS data with data from the other 49 states to explore health disparities; 2) Performing a FCDS cancer registry linkage with NHIS data and depositing a de-identified file at the NCHS Research Data Center for merging with linked NHIS files; 3) Analyzing linked FCDS-NHIS data to demonstrate its utility to perform hypothesis-driven research in health disparities, cancer control, and prevention; and 4) beginning recruitment of all U.S. cancer registries into the Consortium in the preparation of a National Cancer Institute R01 application.