The CRN Cancer Counter—A Web-based Tool to Count Cancers across Multiple CRN Sites

Abstract

Introduction

The Cancer Counter was developed to improve the Count Cancers across Multiple CRN Sites process at the Cancer Research Network (CRN). This tool was designed to quickly and efficiently analyze cancer registry data from participating CRN sites. It was developed to facilitate the process of generating cancer count statistics. While functional, this process was time-consuming and required several people to complete each request.

Methods

The Cancer Counter was based on a Group Health Cooperative prototype. Participating CRN sites mailed hard copy reports to the CRN site. These reports were scanned and then loaded into the application. The design of this Cancer Counter was based on a Group Health Cooperative prototype. Each participating CRN site sent a de-identified cancer case summary file from their virtual tumor registry to a Secure Host Server at CHR where the data were cleaned and subsequently loaded into the application.

Results

The CRN Cancer Counter has been used to develop proposals and answer queries. Users can select counts using the following variables:

- Cancer Site (Lung, Colon, Liver, etc.)
- Race
- Gender
- Hispanic Ethnicity
- Year of Diagnosis
- Vital Status
- Behavior (Malignant, In situ, Benign, etc.)
- Stage (Localized, Regional, Distant, etc.)
- Morphology (Type of Tumor Cell)
- Cancer Counter Analysis Tool
- CRN Researchers

Conclusions

CRN Cancer Counter is a simple, yet powerful tool to facilitate the process of generating cancer count statistics. It was used to generate proposal feasibility and queries. The tool has been used to quickly generate research, scoring, and improve research capabilities.

Cancer Counter Policies

- Publications
- Proposals
- Data Access
- Security
- HIPAA
- Publications

Applications

- Publications / Proposal Tool
- Analysis Tool
- CRN Researchers

Discussion

The CRN Cancer Counter is a simple, yet powerful tool to facilitate the process of generating cancer count statistics. It was used to generate proposal feasibility and queries. The tool has been used to quickly generate research, scoring, and improve research capabilities.

Future Work:

- Add cross tabs (frequencies by strata)
- Add more CRN Sites
- Improve data access for quality assurance purposes.
- Enable the CRN to rapidly respond to NCI tumor count queries.
- Improve access to cancer information for grant proposals.
- Generate tabulations for proposal development.

Limitations

- Any "public" document where HMO specific numbers are used. The PI will be responsible for handling any necessary IRB approvals at the HMO.
- Information that requires the PI's permission before dissemination: Aggregate counts across all the HMOs of the CRN. Information that will not leave the CRN.
- Examples:
  - Information that does not require the PI's permission before dissemination:
    - Aggregate counts across all the HMOs of the CRN.
    - Information that will not leave the CRN.
  - Examples:
    - Aggregate counts across all the HMOs of the CRN.
    - Information that will not leave the CRN.

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