National Cancer Database

* Access approval process
  + Must be from a CoC accredited program
    - Data use agreement, terms
    - Letter of support from CoC accredited program
    - Application
  + When ACDB was established any hospital could voluntarily report data to the NCDB.
  + In 1996, all CoC-approved hospitals were required to report cancer cases to the NCDB, and in 2001, participation and the associated advantages of reporting to the NCDB were limited to hospitals who had earned CoC approval.
* Need for specialized software
  + Statistical analysis software
    - SAS, SPSS,Strata,SPLUS,Other
* Granularity of publicly accessible data
  + Walled Data
    - Full dataset contains data on 21 million cancer patients diagnosed between 1985 and 2005
    - Data from 1,430 hospitals
  + Publicly accessible data includes benchmark reports
    - 14 most commonly diagnosed solid tumors in United States
    - Users are provided access to data from ten diagnosis years (2008-2017)
    - Slightly more than 11 million cases
* Institutional goals & governing bodies (How does this impact the availability of the data?)
  + CoC oversees ACDB and is a multidisciplinary consortium of professional organizations that strive to improve cancer care through setting standards, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive cancer care. The CoC also accredits hospitals as cancer centers based on their ability to provide a broad range of cancer-related services and specialists.
  + NCDB was started in 1989 by American College of Surgeons and the commission on cancer.
  + Goal of striving to improve cancer care through setting standards, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive cancer care
  + NCDB is housed at ACoS headquarters.
* Data analysis of selected cancers or cancer variables
  + Mostly descriptive data, raw form
  + Quality-of-care reports
  + Users of the data have:
    - Examined surgical and adjuvant therapy treatment trends
    - Studies of rare cancers (i.e., pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors)
    - Subset analyses (i.e., stage I pancreatic cancer patients undergoing resection)
  + Studies using NCDB data have addressed important clinical questions in areas where clinical trials may be challenging.

Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results

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