

Louisiana Tumor Registry: Mission, Progress, and Opportunities

Xiao-Cheng Wu, MD, MPH
Director, Louisiana Tumor Registry
Professor, Epidemiology & Population Health Program
School of Public Health, LSU Health New Orleans

Louisiana Cancer Board Meeting
September 25, 2025

1

Outline

- LTR Mission and Vision
- Legislative Mandate
- History and Achievements
- LTR Structure and Funding Sources
- Current Priorities, Challenges, and Opportunities
- Q&A

2

What is the Louisiana Tumor Registry (LTR)?

LTR is **legally authorized** to undertake the ongoing and systematic collection, storage, and management of essential **population-based cancer** data. It serves as a **vital resource** for cancer surveillance, research, prevention, and control.



LTR Mission:

To collect and report complete, high-quality, and timely population-based cancer data in Louisiana to support cancer research, control, and prevention.



LTR Vision:

To reduce suffering and death from cancer using information collected by the Louisiana Tumor Registry.

3

Legislative Mandate of the Louisiana Tumor Registry (LTR)

- **State Law:** Designated as Louisiana's official, population-based cancer registry.
- **Authorized Role:** Access identifiable cancer patient information from all hospitals, pathology laboratories, radiation centers, physicians, nursing homes, coroners, and other licensed healthcare facilities and providers.
- **Scope of Work:** Collect, manage, and analyze all reportable cancer cases statewide.
- **Public Health Purpose:** Provide data for cancer surveillance, guide cancer prevention and control, inform policy decisions, and support research.

4

LTR History and Achievements

- **Established in the Early 1980s:** Created by legislative mandate as Louisiana's official, population-based cancer registry.
- **National Participation:** part of the NCI-SEER and the CDC-NPCR Programs.
- **National Recognition for high quality, completeness, and timeliness:**
 - **NCI-SEER:** 1st place award, every year for the past 15 years.
 - **NAACCR:** Gold certification every year since the 1990s
 - **CDC-NPCR:** Registry of Excellence/Distinction
- **Cancer Control Resource:** Support statewide cancer control planning, target interventions, and program evaluation.

5

LTR History and Achievements (Cont.)

- **Research Infrastructure:** Provide data, linkages, and biospecimens to advance diverse research.
- **Policy Impact:** Inform healthcare policy, resource allocation, and legislative decisions.
- **Scientific Contributions:** Supply high-quality data for peer-reviewed publications, surveillance reports, visualization tools, and cancer research.



6

LTR Structure and Funding Sources

- **Housed at:** LSU Health New Orleans
- **Statewide Network:**
 - **LTR central office** + in-house region
 - **Regions 2/5:** Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center
 - **Regions 4/6:** Acadian Medical Research Foundation
 - **Regions 7/8:** University of Louisiana in Monroe
- **Funding support for routine operations:**
 - **State (34%):** Data collection from hospitals
 - **CDC-NPCR (19%):** Quality assurance, data dissemination, and cancer control programs.
 - **NCI-SEER (47%):** Non-hospital settings, advanced case consolidation and edit, patient follow-up, and infrastructures for research
- **Grant and contracts:** Additional competitive funding for special research studies

7

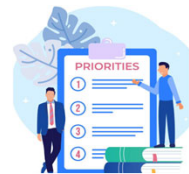
LTR Challenges

- **Manual data collections:** LTR and its regional staff manually collect data from hundreds of hospitals and non-hospital settings, except for ~30 hospitals that operate their own cancer registries.
- **Limited remote access to EMRs:** LTR and its regional staff have limited remote access to medical records, making data collection more difficult and time-consuming.
- **Workforce shortage:** National and statewide shortage of oncology data specialists (ODS)/certified tumor registrars (CTR).
- **Rising Complexity:** Growing demands for more detailed, clinically relevant data and new coding systems (64 data items in 1987 and over 800 per cancer case today).
- **Level funding:** Increased data items, more source records, rising ODS salaries, and leveled or reduced funds.

8

LTR Priorities and Opportunities

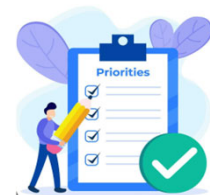
- **Maintain Excellence:** Sustain high-quality, complete, and timely cancer data to achieve SEER, NPCR, and NAACCR requirements.
- **Expand Remote Access to EHRs:** Increase secure remote access to medical records at hospitals and providers' offices.
- **Develop innovative approaches:**
 - Automatically code data from electronic pathology reports
 - Extract data not captured in the LTR database by linking to medical records.



9

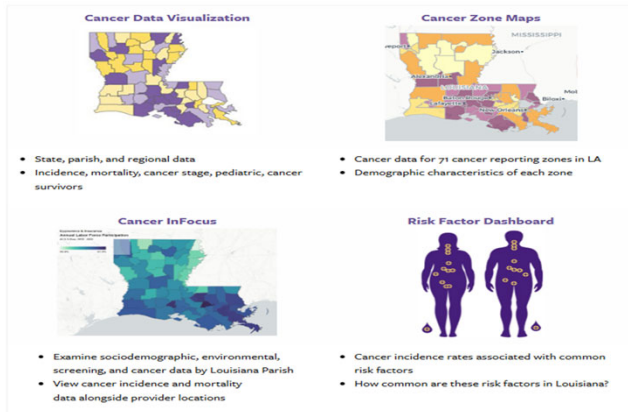
LTR Priorities and Opportunities (Cont.)

- **Enhanced Visualization and Repository Access:**
 - Enhance visualization tools
 - Streamline the Virtual Tissue Repository (VTR) program, enabling more efficient research and deeper insights.
- **Support Cancer Control and Clinical Trial Networks:** Strengthen collaborations to inform prevention, resource use, and research translation.



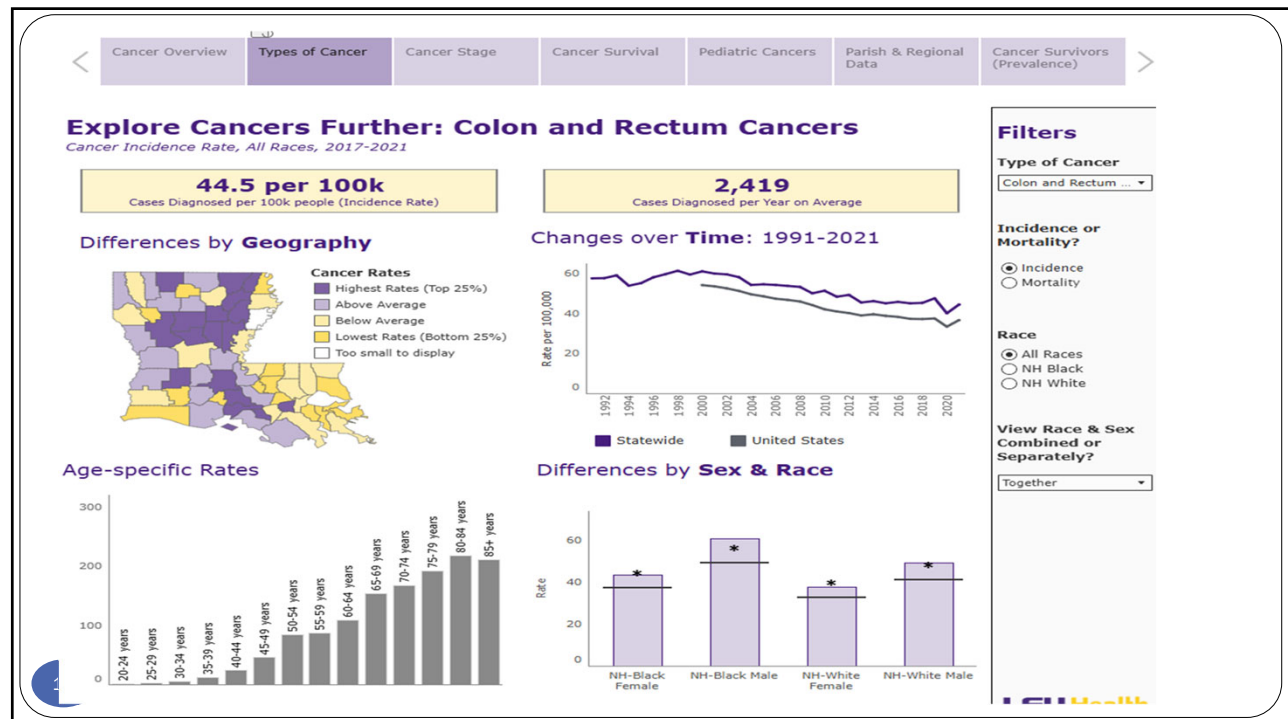
10

LTR Interactive Data Visualization Tools

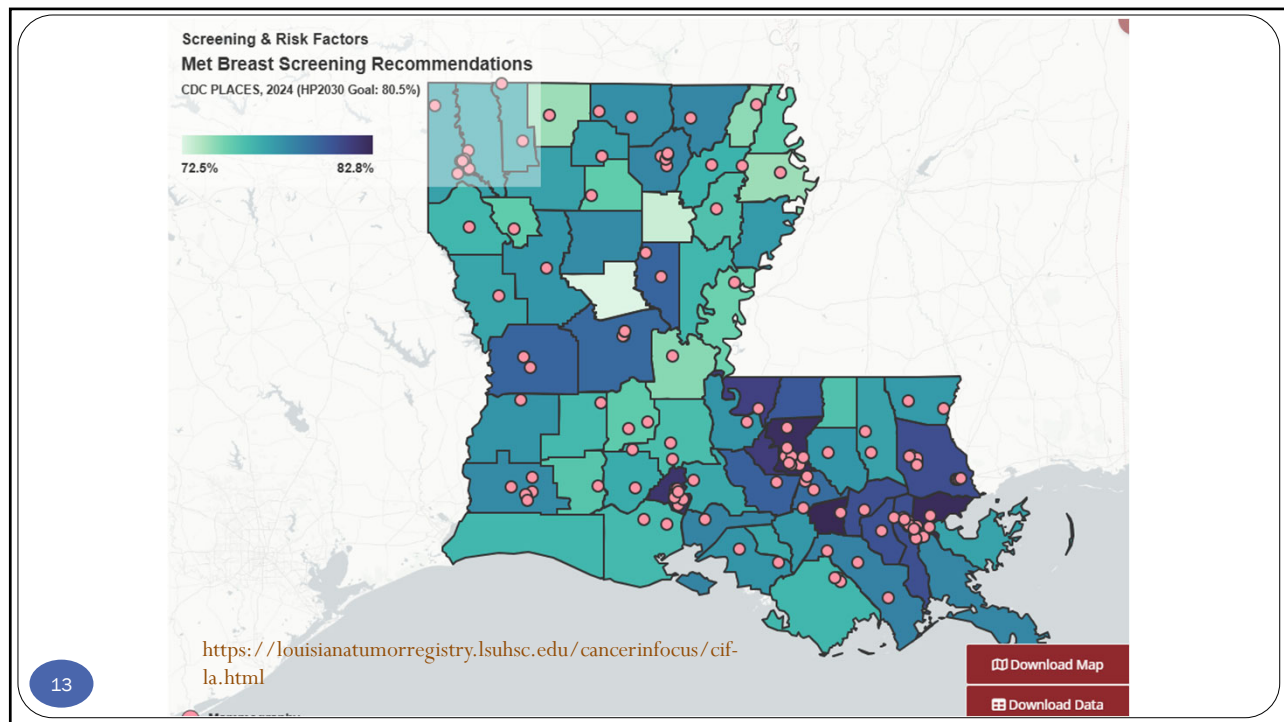


<https://sph.lsuhsu.edu/louisiana-tumor-registry/data-usestatistics/louisiana-data-interactive-statistics/>

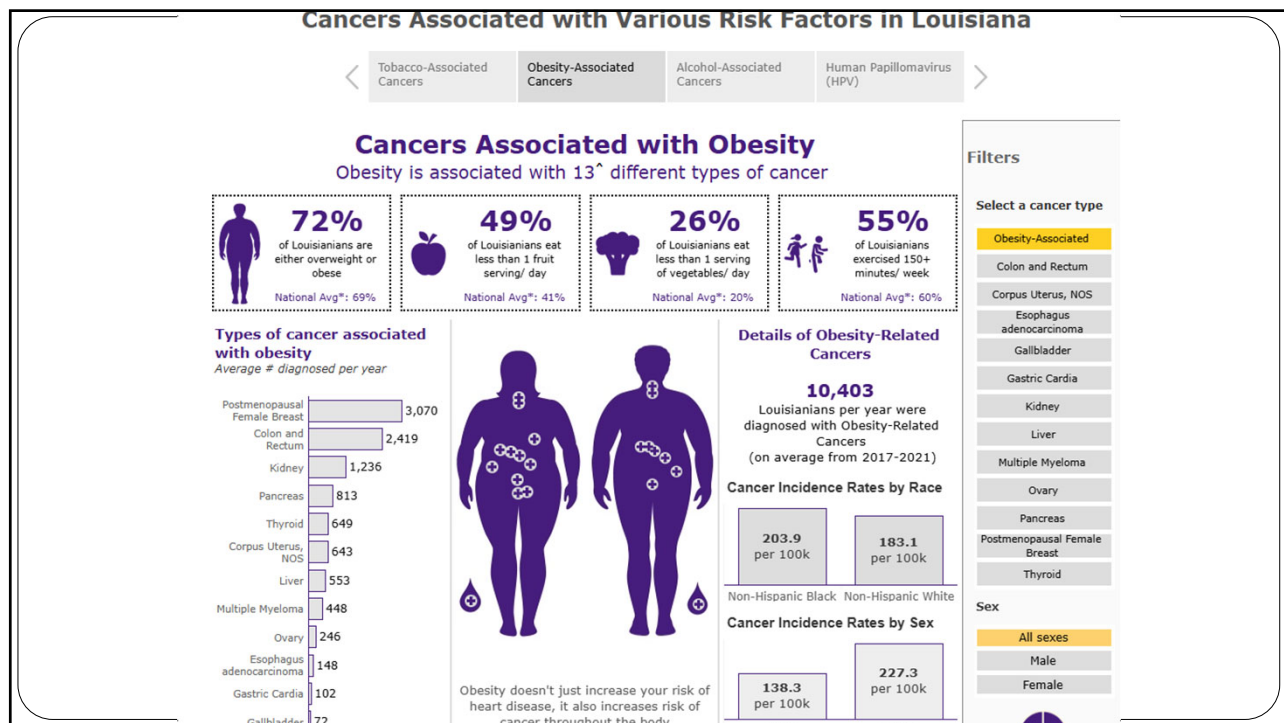
11



12



13



14

Questions

