

POPULATION BASED CANCER REGISTRY, SIKKIM STATE

Sir Thutob Namgyal Memorial Hospital, Gangtok

Dr Yogesh Verma, Principal Investigator

Dr Prakash Pradhan, Co-Principal Investigator

Population Based Cancer Registry was commenced in July 2003 under the North Eastern Regional Cancer Registry, Regional Medical Research Centre, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). This was done as no information was available regarding the magnitude and type of various cancers in Sikkim. Sikkim is one of the smallest states of India and is bordered by three countries, China in the North, Nepal in the West and the Kingdom of Bhutan in the East. The total population as per the 2011 census is 6,07,688.

The registration is done by a group of dedicated staff. Since cancer is not a notifiable disease, cases are registered actively. The registry has 37 sources of registration and enjoys good cooperation from all of them.

The State of Sikkim does not have any cancer treatment facility but follow ups are done on most of the patients diagnosed with cancer by writing to the cancer hospitals located in Kolkata, New Delhi, Mumbai and Siliguri.

Over a period of time cancers in Sikkim have been studied and it has been found that certain ethnic populations like the Bhutia tribe are vulnerable to stomach cancers. This community shows a very high incidence of this cancer.

The mortality information is collected from the office of Births and Deaths and the Social Investigators visit all the hospitals and sources of registration to get information on the cause of death. All the deaths are compiled and matched with incident data.

The National Cancer Registry Programme under ICMR in Bangalore provides support in terms of quality and publishing of reports.

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Registry Staff (PBCR), Gangtok

Dr S. Pradhan	:	Research Officer
Mr Saroj Deep Sapkota	:	Computer Programmer
Mr B.N. Bhattarai	:	Statistician
Mr Pranay Giri	:	Social Investigator
Mr Prakash Sundas	:	Social Investigator

**Main Sources of Registration of Incident Cases of Cancer: 2009-2011
Sikkim State**

Name of the Institution	Number	%
STNM Hospital, Gangtok	856	70.6
CRH, Tadong	114	9.4
Private Clinic	63	5.2
District Hospital, Namchi	35	2.9
Births and Deaths, Kazi Road, Gangtok	23	1.9
District Hospital, Singtam	21	1.7
District Hospital, Gyalshing	19	1.6
Others	81	6.7
Total	1212	100.0

- 1. Institutions listed have registered at least one percent of all cases in the registry for the combined years 2009-2011.*
- 2. The numbers and proportion listed are the minimum number of cases. Institutions could have registered/ reported more cases, since duplicate registrations and non-resident/registry cases are not included.*