



Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans

March 2003

Dear Colleague:

We are very pleased to present the seventh biennial report of the Minnesota Cancer Surveillance System (MCSS) on the occurrence of cancer in Minnesota, as required by Minnesota Statute 144.672 Subdivision 2.

Each of us has been, or will be, touched by cancer. Statistics presented in this report tell us that almost half of all Minnesotans will be diagnosed with a potentially serious cancer at some point during their lives. Reducing the occurrence of cancer is a critical element in the MDH's strategy for protecting and improving the health of our citizens. Because the MCSS was implemented in 1988, we are now able to measure how much progress is being made in cancer control and to determine where our best efforts, and limited resources, need to be focused.

This report documents important successes—decreasing rates of smoking-related cancers among men, breast cancer mortality among women, and colorectal cancer among both men and women. It also points to continuing challenges—increasing incidence rates of melanoma among both men and women and lung and breast cancer among women, as well as a disproportionate burden of cancer among persons of color. Of special concern are American Indians in Minnesota, whose risk of dying of cancer is twice that of American Indians in the U.S. as a whole. On the other hand, the results of examining cancer rates in different regions of the state should reassure Minnesotans that their risk of developing cancer is not dictated by where they choose to live.

The MCSS is a powerful tool for public health, and its value increases with each year of data collection. Please join us in thanking MCSS staff, cancer registrars, and health care providers throughout the state, whose efforts and diligence in data collection have made this report possible.

This report was prepared by MCSS staff under the direction of Dr. Sally Bushhouse. Questions and comments on the report can be directed to the MCSS at (612) 676-5216.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Mandernach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Cancer in Minnesota, 1988-1999

Biennial Report to the Minnesota Legislature 2003

March 2003

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As requested by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost approximately \$21,188 to prepare, including staff time, printing, and mailing expenses.

Upon request, this publication can be made available in alternative formats, such as large print, Braille, or cassette tape.

Printed on recycled paper.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The MCSS gratefully acknowledges Mr. Glen Trute for his generous donation of time and creativity in the design of the report cover and MCSS logo.

SUGGESTED CITATION:

Perkins C, Trute W, Soler J, DeWaard E, Bushhouse S. *Cancer in Minnesota, 1988-1999*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Minnesota Cancer Surveillance System, Minnesota Department of Health, March 2003.

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