

Review of: "Indian Health Ministry Refuses to Make Cancer a Notifiable Disease Despite ICMR's Recommendation"

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The paper highlights that less than one-sixth of cancer cases get recorded in the National Cancer Registry Programme. It is important to also highlight that many Scandinavian nations have reporting rates of over 90%, and the authors may look for evidence of the same. It may also be relevant to point out that legal mandates and regulatory adherence have made it possible for some of these nations to achieve high levels of cancer registration. The analytics provided by the National Cancer Registry have shown that cancer patterns vary from region to region and city to city. An important question is whether the one-sixth of cases reported by the ICMR-NCDIR-registry is representative of all the cases in the country. Given the variations from region to region, it is possible that the picture from the registry data may be different from the all-country picture. Authors may use the data published by the registry programme that captures this diversity. An interesting analysis could be how the addition of more sites to the National Cancer Registry changed the profile of cancer cases in the country. I hope that such historical data is available for important registry sites. A legal mandate for notification is expected to improve the representativeness of the cancer incidence data. Cancers do not pose a short-term epidemic threat, but capturing data is important for long-term prevention and policy formulation. The authors have raised crucial points for debate to improve public health.