

# POPULATION BASED CANCER REGISTRY, SIKKIM STATE

## Sir Thutob Namgyal Memorial Hospital, Gangtok

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Sikkim is one of the North Eastern States of India located in the Himalayan Mountains. On the world map it is just a speck with an approximate latitude of 27 degrees North and longitude of 88 degrees East. With the population of 6,10,577 (2011 census) it is the least populous state of India and with an area of 7096 sq. km. it is the second smallest state after Goa. The state is bordered by Nepal in the west, Tibet in the north and east and Bhutan in the east. The Indian state of West Bengal lies in the south. The climate ranges from subtropical to high alpine and Kangchenjunga, the world's third-highest mountain, is located at Sikkim's border with Nepal.

The Population Based Cancer Registry (PBCR) was established in Sikkim in July 2003 under the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) with its office at the Sir Thutob Namgyal Memorial (STNM) Hospital at Gangtok. The registry covers the entire state of Sikkim.

Cancer Registration has to be undertaken actively and because of this active co-operation at all levels in the Health system is needed. The registry has 37 sources of registration and enjoys good cooperation from all of them. Since cancer is not a notifiable disease, cases are registered actively. The registration is done by a group of dedicated staff.

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.

All District Hospitals, PHCs and Private Hospitals have their own Births and Deaths office and the mortality information are collected from these centres. All the death records are compiled and matched with the incident data.

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

### *Registry Staff (PBCR), Gangtok*

|                              |   |                     |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| <b>Dr Anubhav Verma</b>      | : | Research Officer    |
| <b>Mr Saroj Deep Sapkota</b> | : | Computer Programmer |
| <b>Mr B.N. Bhattarai</b>     | : | Statistician        |
| <b>Mr Pranay Giri</b>        | : | Social Investigator |
| <b>Mr Prakash Sundas</b>     | : | Social Investigator |

**Main Sources of Registration of Incident Cases of Cancer: 2012-2014**  
**Sikkim State**

| <b>Name of the Institution</b>        | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b>     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| STNM Hospital, Gangtok                | 909           | 65.6         |
| CRH, Tadong                           | 186           | 13.4         |
| Private Clinic                        | 44            | 3.2          |
| District Hospital, Namchi             | 39            | 2.8          |
| District Hospital, Gyalshing          | 34            | 2.5          |
| Births and Deaths, Kazi Road, Gangtok | 24            | 1.7          |
| Namthang PHC                          | 15            | 1.1          |
| Others                                | 134           | 9.7          |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>1385</b>   | <b>100.0</b> |

1. *Institutions listed have registered at least one percent of all cases in the registry for Selected Year.*
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.*