

*The Impact of Requiring
Certified Tumor Registrars in
New Jersey*



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Overview



- Events Which Led to this Requirement
- Development of Educational Programs
- Overall Impact of Requiring CTRs in NJ
- “Our Attempt” to Analyze Impact on Data Quality

A Little History.....

- Investigation of Childhood Cancers in Dover Township
- Unveiled a Registry backlog of 5 years
 - Implementation of a Plan to Bring the Registry Up to Date
 - Changes in Cancer Reporting Statute
 - Increase in State Funding

Long Laundry List

- We Wanted “Teeth” in the Law
- We Wanted to Improve:
 - Timeliness
 - Completeness
 - Data Quality
- CTR Vs CTR Eligible
- Protection for Central Registry Staff

The Process & The Struggle

- Developed Strong Collaborative Partnerships
 - Strong Involvement Leadership of ORANJ
 - NJ Hospital Association
 - American Cancer Society
 - Cancer Institute of NJ



Sweeping Legislative Changes In 1998



- **By August 3, 2000**
 - **“All abstracting work performed by a health care facility which diagnoses or treats 100 cancer cases per year shall be performed by a registrar who is certified..”**

And More Legislative Changes....



- Penalties for Non-Reporting
 - If a HCF fails to correct its deficiencies the Department will conduct the appropriate Registrar activities and the HCF shall reimburse the Department
 - HCF can pay up to \$500 per unreported case
 - HCF that fails to report cases shall be liable for a penalty up to \$1,000 per day

Development of Basic Education Program

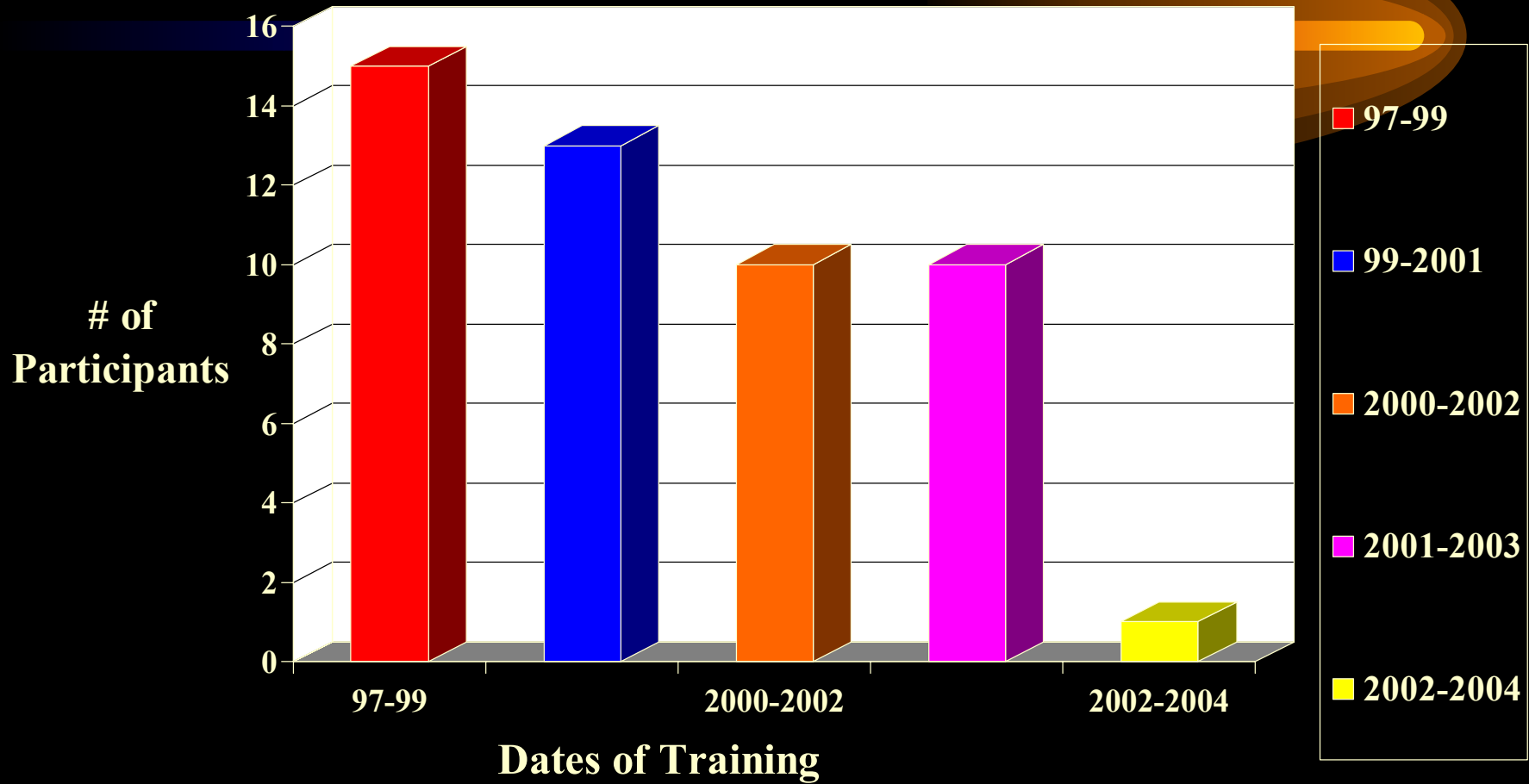
- Joint Effort with ORANJ & ACS
- Goals:
 - Provide Basic Training Opportunities for New & Inexperienced Registrars
 - Get as many People as Possible Certified In NJ



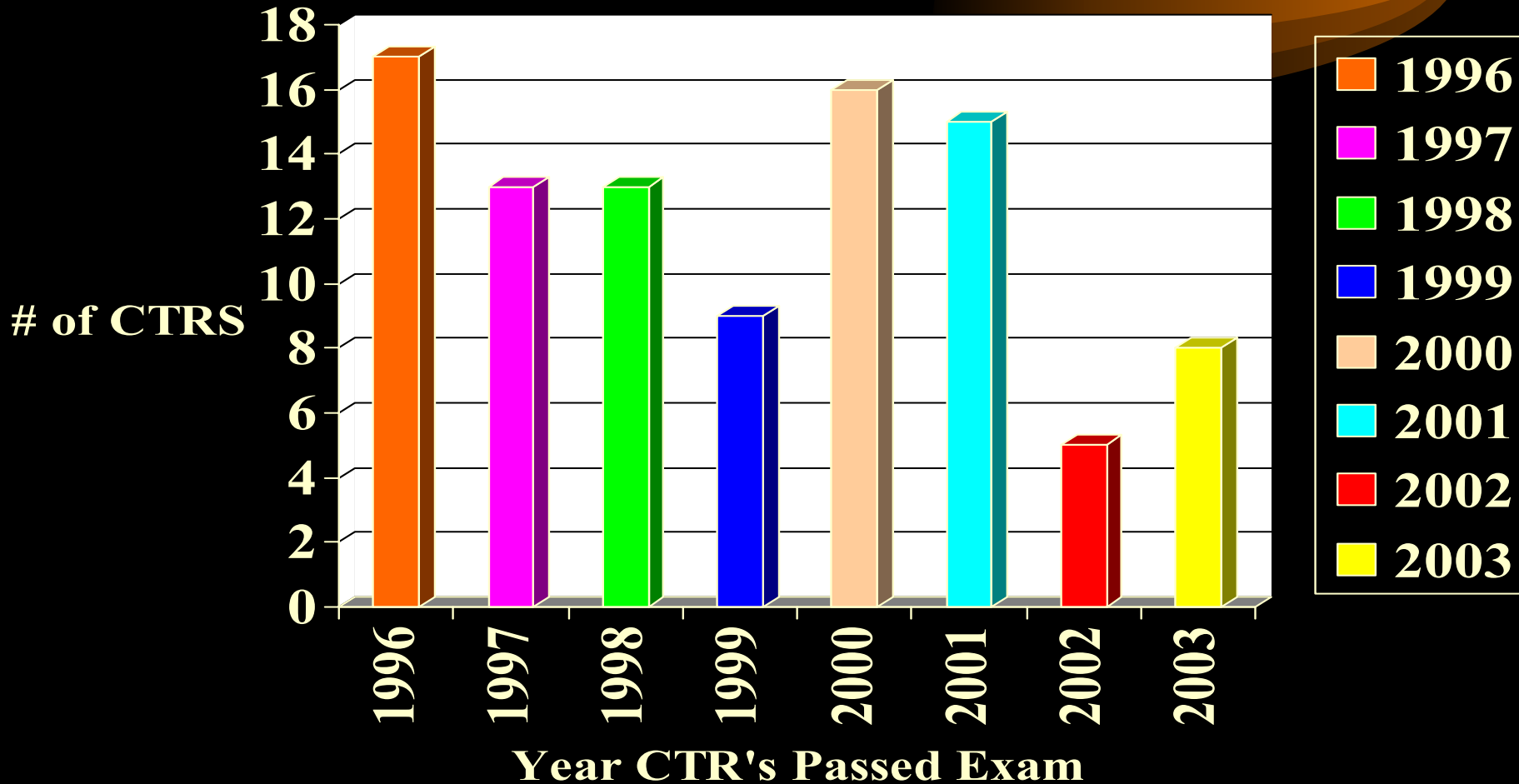
Basic Education Program

- Started in 1997
- 2 Year Program
 - Monthly Full Day Workshops
 - Original concept started with Physicians & Volunteer CTRs from ORANJ
 - Minimal Registration Fees
 - Utilize ACS Facility for Classes in Central NJ
 - NJSCR provides AV, handouts etc.

CTRs in NJ Who Participated in Basic Ed



CTRs Passing Exam In NJ



NJSCR Pre-Certification Program

- 3-Day workshop held 1-2 times per year for CTR Eligible



Impact on Central Registry Staff

- Provided Impetus for Staff Certification
- Implementation of “CTR title” to Protect Staff
- Provided Opportunities for Central Registry to Recruit Certified Tumor Registrars
- Enhanced Credibility with Hospitals
- Enhanced our Relationship with ORANJ

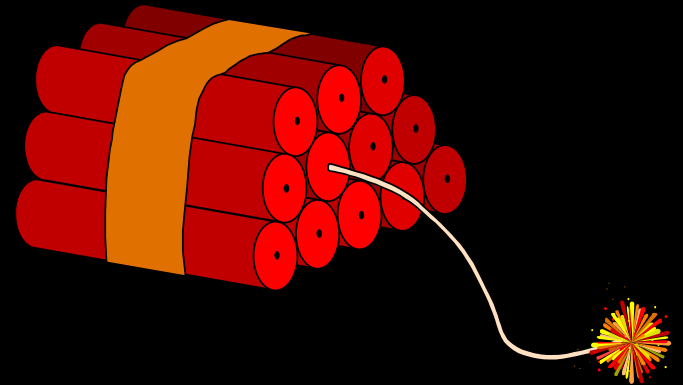
Impact on the Profession

- Raised the “Bar” in NJ
- Hospital Administrators have begun to Recognize the Value of CTRs
- Strengthened ORANJ
- Salaries



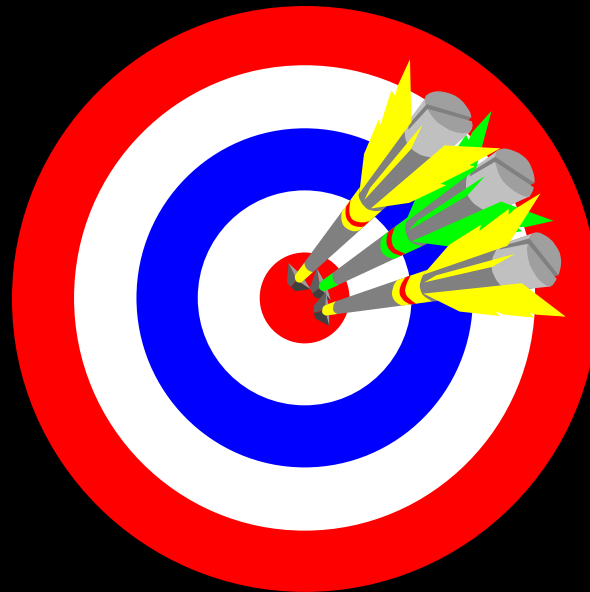
Impact on Data Quality ???

- Difficult to Measure
 - GENEDITs
 - NAACCR Audit 1995 Vs. SEER Audit 2001
 - Poor Record Keeping
 - Reabstracting
- Too Many “Gray Areas”



Projects Underway to Improve Data Quality

- SWEEP
- GENEDITS Lite
- Basic & Intermediate Education Programs



Where We Are Today

- All NJ Hospitals That Are Required to Have CTR's are in Compliance
- There Are 154 Active CTRs in NJ
- 53 ACoS Approved Programs >75% of Annual Caseload
- Sponsor Advanced Training Workshops

Action Items



- Targeted Training will Continue to be a Priority in NJ
- Advocate for the Hospital- based CTR
- Stay Active with ORANJ
- Take More of a Pro-active role with NCRA