

Texas Cancer Reporting News

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Texas Cancer Registry

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IN THIS ISSUE

Registry Accomplishments

by Ashley Dixon, MPH

NAACCR / CDC-NPCR Update

The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) received results from CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) annual Calls for Data that took place last fall. The data were evaluated on quality, completeness, and timeliness as demonstrated by meeting five data quality criteria. The TCR once again achieved NPCR "High Quality Data Standards" for diagnosis year 2012 and was recognized as CDC-NPCR Registry of Distinction. The TCR also regained NAACCR

Gold Certification based on the quality and completeness of 2012 diagnosis data. Reaching this level of data quality and completeness would not be possible without the professionalism and dedication of Texas Cancer Reporters. We thank you for your contributions to cancer prevention and control, to the lives of cancer patients and their families, and to the health of Texans! 🇺🇸

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Texas Cancer Programs Receive National Achievement Award

adapted from CoC Source Special Announcement

The Commission on Cancer (CoC), a Quality Program of the American College of Surgeons, has presented the 2014 Outstanding Achievement Award (OAA) to 75 CoC-accredited cancer programs in the U.S., including six in Texas.

Established in 2004, the OAA recognizes cancer programs that demonstrate excellence by earning commendation for all applicable standards and providing quality care to patients with cancer. A program earns the OAA by completing the accreditation survey and receiving a Performance Report that indicates an accreditation award of "Three-Year with Commendation" outlining the ratings for the

seven commendation-level standards and no deficiencies.

These 75 programs received the OAA as a result of surveys performed in 2014, and represent approximately 15 percent of cancer programs surveyed during the evaluation period. The majority of recipients are community-based facilities; however, there are also academic hospitals, integrated networks, and a Veterans Affairs facility that also received this year's award. New programs undergoing initial survey and National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated programs are not eligible to earn the OAA.

Congratulations to the following Texas Cancer Programs receiving this distinguished award:

- Baylor University Medical Center - Dallas, TX
- Medical City Dallas Hospital - Dallas, TX
- Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas - Dallas, TX
- University of Texas Southwestern St. Paul Hospital - Dallas, TX
- University of Texas Southwestern Zale Lipshy Hospital - Dallas, TX
- Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano - Plano, TX 🇺🇸

COMPLETENESS BY REGION

Diagnosis Year 2013

As of June 4, 2015

83.7%

Texas Overall

83.1%

Region 1

81.3%

Region 2

84.5%

Region 3

82.9%

Region 4

75.7%

Region 5

86.0%

Region 6

79.9%

Region 7

82.5%

Region 8

82.0%

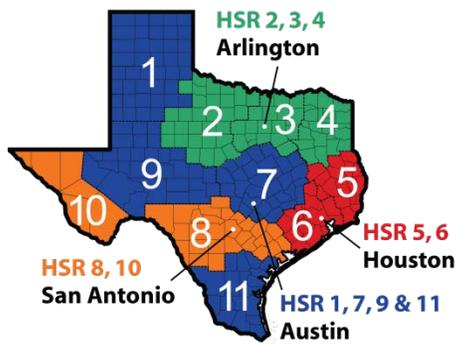
Region 9

87.3%

Region 10

85.1%

Region 11



Epidemiology Corner

by Leticia Nogueira, PhD, MPH and David Risser, PhD, MPH

Texas Cancer Registry Data for 2015

[data.shtm](#) for access to our Limited-Use dataset, or

In addition to the data available in our Query Tool, www.cancer-rates.info/tx/, the TCR publishes official estimates of the number of cancer cases and deaths that will be diagnosed during the current year. In 2014, we began using the same method used by the American Cancer Society and the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) program of the National Cancer Institute for generating these estimates. This method is an improvement over the one used in the past

because it accounts for expected delays in case reporting and considers geographic variations in sociodemographic and lifestyle factors, medical settings, and cancer screening behaviors as predictors of new cases that will be diagnosed. These data are now published on our website for 2015: www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/statisticalData/2015/expected/2015-Texas-Expected-Numbers-of-Cancer-Cases-and-Deaths.aspx.

The TCR also annually publishes childhood cancer incidence rates, www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/childhood.shtm, cancer survival rates, www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/survival.shtm, and cancer prevalence estimates, www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/prevalence.shtm. Additional cancer diagnosis data is now available upon request for 2012. We currently support approximately 50 active research studies using Texas cancer data. These studies include long-standing cohort studies such as the "NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study," to new studies evaluating the genetic associations between birth anomalies and childhood cancer. For more information about how to request and use TCR data, go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/limited-use-

Age-Adjusted Invasive Cancer Incidence Rates in Texas

All Sites, 2008 - 2012

By County

Age-Adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Million Population

Texas Rate: 427.6 / per 100,000

- 206.5 - 382.4
- 383.6 - 421.5
- 422.2 - 444.3
- 444.4 - 575.2

Risk Population less than 1000

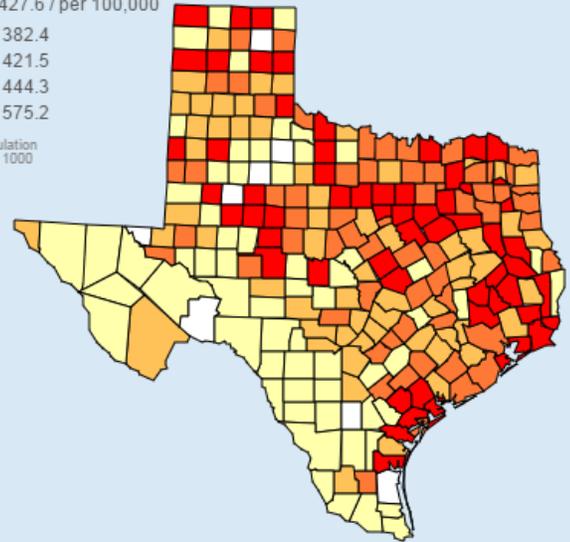


Figure 1 – Web Query Tool Example

www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/researchers.shtm for additional data. As always, researchers are welcome to contact us directly at 1-800-252-8059, or at CancerData@dshs.state.tx.us to make a data request.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Check out the TCR's Completeness Dashboard at <http://tinyurl.com/TCRdashboard>.

Training Corner

by M'Lissa Quintanilla, BA, LVN

Greetings, Texas Cancer Reporters! We hope you are enjoying the start of summer. The Training Group here at the Texas Cancer Registry had the pleasure of attending the 2015 NCRA Conference in San Antonio and is feeling energized by the wealth of great information on AJCC TNM Staging and all of the other great topics that were presented.

Special Topics

Your attention to the following areas ensures high quality cancer data from your valued efforts.

- For cases diagnosed on or after January 1, 2015, directly assigned SEER Summary Stage 2000 is required from all facilities.
- An updated version of the Hematopoietic & Lymphoid (Heme) Database was released by NCI SEER in January 2015. If you are using a downloaded version, be aware that you must download the new version and that it will automatically update when you are connected to the Internet. The links to both the standalone and online database and manual can be found here: <http://seer.cancer.gov/tools/heme/>.
- SSFs – Remember to code your site-specific factors. There are no changes from 2014 and the list of required SSFs for years 2010 – 2015 is found here: www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/CancerReporting/2014-Cancer-Reporting-Handbook.aspx. Email TCR.Training@dshs.state.tx.us for other SSF related questions.
- Text Reminder – Remember to include text from the operative and pathology reports to support your coding. If data is absent from the record, include a note to reflect that. Please make every effort to fill out all of the required fields.
- The NCRA Education Committee has developed a set of site-specific text guidelines to follow when determining what text to include in the text fields of your abstract that can be found here: www.cancerregistryeducation.org/rr.
- The 2015 SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual is now available on the SEER website:

<http://seer.cancer.gov/tools/codingmanuals/index.html>.

- The most recent version of the NAACCR Standards Implementation Guidelines were released in May of 2015 and can be found here:

www.naacr.org/StandardsandRegistryOperations/ImplementationGuidelines.aspx.

For other training requests, please visit www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/Training-Request.aspx. TCR is your resource!

2014 Cancer Reporting Handbook

Be sure to download your copy of the TCR 2014 Cancer Reporting Handbook found at www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/CancerReporting/2014-Cancer-Reporting-Handbook.aspx. Save a copy to your desktop for frequent reference. If you need a tutorial on how to download the handbook or quickly access specific topics found in the handbook, send us an email at TCR.Training@dshs.state.tx.us and we will get you started!

The 2015 Cancer Reporting Handbook will be released within the next couple of months. TCR will send out an announcement at that time. You may also check back frequently on our website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/publications.shtm.

NAACCR Webinars

The 2014 – 2015 NAACCR Webinar Series began in October of 2014 and continues through September of 2015. We will then start again in the fall with the new series, so please look for an announcement soon. The Texas Cancer Registry broadcasts these webinars in multiple locations throughout Texas free of charge for your benefit and continuing education requirements. Upcoming webinars are displayed below.

2015 NAACCR WEBINAR SCHEDULE

07.09.15	Survivorship Care Plans
08.06.15	Collecting Cancer Data: Central Nervous System
09.03.15	Coding Pitfalls

For the complete listing, including past webinars, please visit the TCR Webinar page at www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/webinars.shtm. Please Note: It may still be possible to earn CE hours for past webinars.

NAACCR CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar Series

The TCR is making the NAACCR CTR Exam Preparation and Review Webinar Series available at no charge to participants. The fall prep course runs Tuesdays from 12 pm – 2 pm CST from August 25, 2015 through October 13, 2015. The recordings will be made available by NAACCR after the initial start date. To register now, take the registration survey found here: www.surveymonkey.com/s/WgVD88V.

CTR EXAM PREP SCHEDULE

08.25.15	Introduction to the Exam Format/Registry Operations & Management/Central Registry Activities
09.01.15	Data Collection: Casefinding, Abstracting, Coding, Follow-up, Survivorship, and Outcomes
09.08.15	Data Collection: Coding Surgery Data Items/Anatomy & Physiology
09.15.15	Data Quality Assurance/Cancer Committee & Cancer Conference
09.22.15	Analysis & Data Usage
09.29.15	Data Collection: ICD-O-3 Coding/Multiple Primary & Histology Coding Rules/Heme and Lymphoid Neoplasm Coding
10.06.15	Data Collection: Staging Systems
10.13.15	Timed Test; Overview; Test Taking Tips; Q & A

Tentative CTR Exam dates are October 17, 2015 – November 7, 2015. Additional updates will be posted on our website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/Training/CTR-Prep-Resources.aspx.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please contact:

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AJCC Curriculum for Registrars

adapted from SEER Registrar News

AJCC's newly developed education product, "[AJCC Curriculum for Registrars](#)," for cancer registrars and the surveillance community through the support of the CDC, has been met with much success. This educational opportunity will assist registrars with the transition to directly assigning AJCC TNM stage.

These webinars intend to provide accurate, detailed information to guide registrars in learning or refreshing their knowledge of AJCC TNM staging. AJCC, as the authoritative source for our staging system, is seeking to meet the needs of cancer registrars and the surveillance community in using AJCC TNM staging.

The recorded webinars are available along with the quiz for those who were unable to attend the live broadcast, providing them the same opportunities to measure their self-learning and understanding of the six Module I Lessons.

The webinars are available on the [AJCC Curriculum for Registrars](#) webpage. The Modules will be posted according to the published schedule.

Module and Lesson Approach

This curriculum utilizes adult education principles, self-guided learning, building knowledge instead of everything at once, and enables quick identification of specific topics or rules for future reference. Each

module contains seven lessons designed to help you review content, study principles described in the lessons, prepare for the webinar, and reinforce information taught in the module. Then you will view the webinar to recap the self-study lessons and take a quiz to assess your learning.

Module Content

Module I Introduction

- ➔ Overview of staging
- ➔ High level explanation of why and how
- ➔ For staff that do not assign stage (many central registry staff, statisticians, researchers):
 - Basic principles of stage
 - Understand terminology used
 - Only lesson they will need
- ➔ For staff assigning stage:
 - Foundation of why AJCC staging is different from CS and summary stage
 - How it is used

Module II Beginning

- ➔ Learn basic rules

Module III Intermediate

- ➔ Move on to the nuances and exceptions for complex cases

Module IV Advanced

- ➔ Move on to the nuances and exceptions for complex cases

Schedule

Module	Self-Study Activity	Live Webinar with Quiz
Module I	Lessons posted January 15, 2015	Feb. 24, 2015 1:00-2:00pm CST
Module II	Lessons posted March 15, 2015	Apr. 21, 2015 1:00-3:00pm CDT
Module III	Lessons posted May 15, 2015	June 23, 2015 1:00-3:00pm CDT
Module IV	Lessons posted July 15, 2015	Aug. 25, 2015 1:00-3:00pm CDT

Summary

Questions may be submitted to the CAnswer Forum, linked on the [AJCC Cancer Staging Education - Registrar page](#), just look for the symbol and link at the bottom of the page. New subforums have been added to the AJCC forum explicitly for these modules.

Visit the [AJCC Cancer Staging Education - Registrar page](#) to view all of the educational opportunities, including two presentations that were posted in September 2014 on the AJCC Chapter 1 cancer staging rules and Explaining Blanks and X, and other issues. 

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please contact:

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NCI News and Notes

adapted from NAACCR Distribution List

SEER Releases New Cancer Statistics Review and Latest SEER Data

The [SEER Cancer Statistics Review \(CSR\), 1975-2012](#), published by NCI's Surveillance Research Program, was released on April 23, 2015. The updated Cancer Statistics Review presents the most recent cancer incidence, mortality, survival, and prevalence statistics.

The report is now available at http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2012/.

Materials posted include:

- ➔ SEER CSR, 1975-2012
- ➔ Updated Cancer Stat Fact Sheets and Fast Stats
- ➔ Delay Adjusted Incidence Rates for SEER 9 and SEER 13

In addition, the latest SEER data (1973-2012) were released on April 15, 2015. The data are available at <http://seer.cancer.gov/data/>.

Redesigned Cancer Trends Progress Report Launches

The National Cancer Institute announced the launch of the newly redesigned *Cancer Trends Progress Report*. From prevention to end of life, the site offers trends by sex and age, race and ethnicity, and income and education level, and displays them in relation to *Healthy People 2020* targets, where data are available.

Visit the site to see new measures in HPV immunization; cancer survivorship as it relates to physical activity and obesity; and four new environmental exposures, including arsenic, benzene, cadmium, and nitrate. Please visit www.progressreport.cancer.gov. 

New TCR Employees

by Ashley Dixon, MPH

Please join us in welcoming the following staff who recently joined the Texas Cancer Registry. We here at the registry are excited to have them, and each looks forward to working with the reporters and users of TCR data.

Janelle Charles, AA started in February 2015 with the Texas Cancer Registry's (TCR) Southwest Texas Registry Operations Group as a Public Health and Prevention Specialist. She has an associate degree in Liberal Arts and a certificate of technology on Cancer Data Management. She obtained her clinical experience at the Methodist Hospital Baytown Cancer Registry. Janelle has completed the required medical terminology and anatomy and physiology courses and is CTR eligible.

Kate Cody, MPH joined the Epidemiology Group as a Research Specialist in February 2015. Kate has a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Southern Methodist University, and a Master of Public Health from the University of Texas School of Public Health, Austin Regional Campus. She has experience organizing, updating, and analyzing large datasets, as well as extensive public health knowledge. She previously worked as paralegal at Martinez Partners, and as the credentialing and recruiting coordinator at Houston Methodist Hospital.

Elizabeth Matthews, BS joined the Northeast Texas Registry Operations Group in Arlington in February 2015 as a Public Health and Prevention Specialist. Elizabeth

has an associate degree in Applied Science in Nursing from Tarrant County College, and a bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Texas at Arlington. She has completed the required medical terminology and anatomy and physiology courses and is CTR eligible.

Tracy Faust started in February 2015 as a Public Health and Prevention Specialist in the Quality Assurance Group. She has over 20 years' experience as a massage therapist and has completed classes to further her knowledge in anatomy and physiology, specifically the lymph node drainage system, craniocervical, and cadaver. Tracy is CTR eligible.

Amanda Robison-Chadwell, MPH joined the Epidemiology Group as a Research Specialist in March 2015. She has a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from California State University, Sacramento, and a Master of Public Health in Community Health from Walden University. Most recently, Amanda was the manager of Public Health Emergency Preparedness in Ector County, Texas. She has also previously held the position of Epidemiology Analyst at the Sacramento Department of Health and Human Services in Sacramento, California.

Kimberly Grady started with the Core Business Operations Group as the TCR Administrative Assistant in April 2015. She has worked at DSHS since 2001 in various positions, most recently in DSHS' Women Infants and Children (WIC) program.

Jonathan Brendan Antle, BS or Brendan as he prefers to be called, joined the eReporting and Training Group in April 2015 as a Program Specialist. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Health Promotion/Biology and a minor in Neurobiology from the University of Texas at Austin. Brendan is also certified as an Emergency Medical Technician by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. He has completed Anatomy and Physiology courses, and has worked as a Research Associate in laboratory settings, as well as an analyst of patient healthcare databases in virtual private networks within hospital systems. He also has worked as office assistant in a physician office analyzing charts, recording patient health information, interpreting and understanding medical terminology, and conducting initial medical tests and contacts with patients. He has participated in planning, implementation, evaluation, and research for health promotion programs. Brendan is CTR eligible.

John Arend, MPH joined the Epidemiology Group in June 2015 as Senior Epidemiologist. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University, and a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Colorado in Denver. John comes to us from the Colorado Central Cancer Registry and has more than 7 years of experience with cancer epidemiology and statistics. 🇺🇸



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Texas Cancer Registry



The mission of the Texas Cancer Registry is to collect, maintain, and disseminate high quality cancer data that contribute towards cancer prevention and control, research, improving diagnoses, treatment, survival, and quality of life for all cancer patients.

Recognition of TCR Funding Sources

Maintaining a statewide cancer registry that meets Centers for Disease Control and Prevention high quality data standards and North American Association of Central Cancer Registries gold certification is accomplished through collaborative funding efforts.

The Texas Cancer Registry recognizes the following whose financial support is essential to accomplishing the Texas Cancer Registry mission for our State, and as the 4th largest cancer registry in the Nation.

Federal Grant Funding

We acknowledge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for its financial support under Cooperative Agreement 5U58DP003902-03.

State Agency Funding

- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas

Academic Institutions

Appreciation is also extended to the following academic institutions for their past funding of the Texas Cancer Registry:

Through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

- University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- Baylor College of Medicine
- University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

Additional financial support was also provided by:

- University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Texas A&M University System Health Science Center
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Houston
- University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth
- Texas Tech University
- University of Texas at Arlington
- Texas State University - San Marcos
- University of Texas at Brownsville
- Texas Woman's University
- Texas Southern University
- University of Texas - Pan American
- University of Texas at El Paso
- Stephen F. Austin State University
- University of Houston - Clear Lake
- University of Texas at Dallas

Questions regarding information found in this newsletter, or suggestions for future issues can be directed to Ashley Dixon, in Austin at (512) 776-3629, (800) 252-8059, or email at Ashley.Dixon@dshs.state.tx.us.

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Visit us online: www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr

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