Texas Cancer Reporting News

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Texas Cancer Registry
Texas Department of State Health Services
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In this Issue

Want to stay on top of TCR's most recent publications?

Our publications page **features a list of our latest publications, data use, and a link to our cancer statistics.**

TCR Updates

NAACCR Certification Results, Natalie Archer PhD, MS

NAACCR Certification Results for 2020 Diagnosis Year

The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) is excited to announce we have achieved North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) Gold Certification for last fall's file submission. Thank you for the incredible efforts collecting, submitting, and working with cancer data impacted by the pandemic. Registry members were in the midst of changing TCR's central registry software over to SEER*DMS, making these results an even greater success.

Below is a summary of TCR's results for diagnosis year 2020:

- With NPCR/NAACCR's adjustment for 2020 data, TCR had an adjusted completeness estimate of 102.1%

- 0% of cases with missing or unknown age, sex, and state/county/province at diagnosis

- No duplicate primary cases

- No edit errors

- Only 0.5% of cases with missing/unknown race, compared to the U.S. average of 1.4% with missing/unknown race across all registries.

Thanks to you, Texas has another year of high-quality, complete, and timely data to be used by many in the fight against cancer. Let's keep up the amazing work together!

Training Corner

TCR Bladder Coding Audit Results

By Elizabeth Harvey, BS, CTR

The TCR participated in a SEER Quality Improvement Evaluation audit covering the *Surgical Procedure of Primary Site* (NAACCR Item #1290) and the *Grade Pathological* (NAACCR Item #3844) data items for the bladder.

Initial findings from SEER showed that examined bladder cases, in which the surgical code indicated the patient had a transurethral resection of the bladder (TURB), had the pathological grade coded instead of the clinical grade. The results showed:

- About 11% of bladder cases diagnosed from 2018 to 2020 were coded with a known pathological grade despite not having a valid surgical resection code

- Clinical and pathological grade for 5% of bladder cases diagnosed from 2018 to 2019 were being coded incorrectly based on the priority instructions in the grade manual

This analysis further revealed that a large proportion of these cases were limited to select registries, including Texas. In July, TCR was asked to participate in a SEER quality audit on bladder. TCR's Quality Assurance Team reviewed 100 cases to edit for coding errors:

- 50 cases in which *Surgical Procedure of Primary Site* code was not equal to Bladder Surgery Codes 30-80 AND the *Grade Pathological* was not = 9.

  o TURB (Bladder Surgery Code 27) qualifies for clinical grade only; it does not meet the pathological criteria to code *Grade Pathological*. A cystectomy or partial cystectomy must be performed. Please refer to page 130 of the Grade Manual.

- 25 cases in which the histology was urothelial AND *Grade Clinical* or *Grade Pathological* were coded to 1, 2, or 3.

  o Urothelial cancers use codes L, H, and 9 ONLY. If medical documents state grades 1-well differentiated, 2-moderately differentiated, or 3-poorly differentiated, use code 9 for unknown. Please refer to the priority order for codes in Notes 4 and Notes 5 of the Grade Manual.

- 25 cases in which the histology was not urothelial AND *Grade Clinical* or *Grade Pathological* were coded to L or H.

  o Adenocarcinomas and Squamous Cell Carcinomas use codes 1-3, or 9. If medical documents states "low grade" or "high grade," use code 9 for unknown. Please refer to the priority order for codes in Notes 4 and Notes 5 of the Grade Manual.

Please feel free to reach out to the TCR Training Team with any questions. We appreciate our Texas reporters, and their continued efforts towards cancer reporting in Texas.

Have questions about TCR education and training opportunities?

Email us at TCR.training@dshs.texas.gov
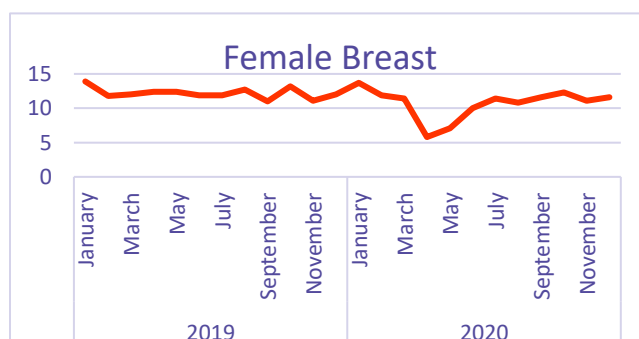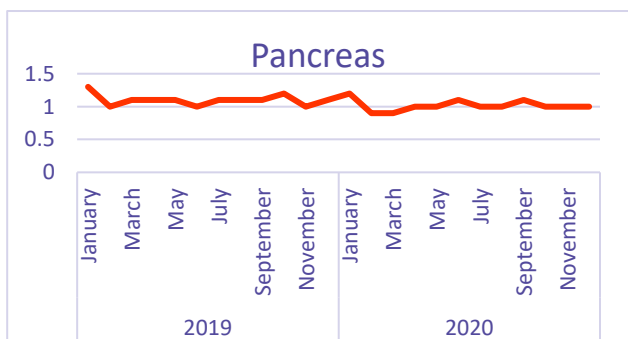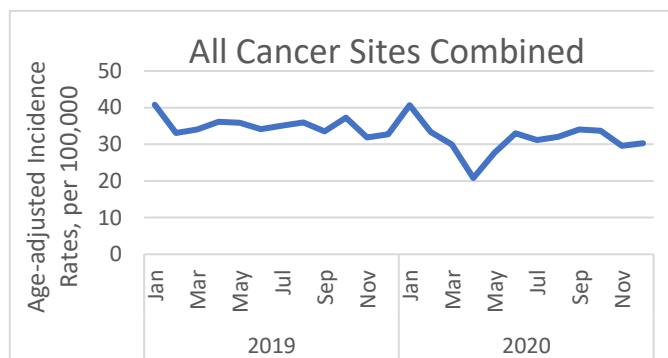
Epidemiology Corner

By Adrianne Moreno, MPH

A Lingering Impact: COVID-19's Disruption on Cancer Data

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant disruptions across the globe, including to the central cancer registry community. Because of these disruptions, analyzing this year of data may be different from prior years. TCR is committed to assessing COVID-19's impact on Texas cancer data and adapting our methodologies.

Because the data are atypical, SEER and TCR will omit 2020 incidence rates when modeling cancer incidence trends. The model typically used, called the joinpoint model, is not designed to handle a one-year anomaly like 2020. It also cannot estimate changes that happened within a single-calendar year. Joinpoints are points in time where a statistically significant change in the trend occurs. Including rates from an outlier year like 2020 could bias the model's results by impacting the location or identification of joinpoints or influencing the measure used to quantify those changes (Annual Percent Change, or APC). The presence of this outlier year can lead to a poor fit of the model and introduce more errors, compromising the accuracy of trend estimates.

Despite this, 2020's incidence rates still interest the cancer community and their partners. SEER conducted a recent analysis of 2020 SEER registry data for several cancer sites. The analysis showed that cancer incidence rates declined at the onset of the pandemic, followed by a recovery. However, the incidence rates did not return to pre-pandemic levels. Among the different cancer types analyzed, thyroid and screening-detected cancers showed the most substantial decrease. Cancers primarily detected by symptoms, such as pancreatic cancer, exhibited a less pronounced decline. TCR conducted similar analyses and determined that these findings align with trends observed in Texas-specific cancer data for these sites. Although TCR will exclude cancer incidence rates from trend analyses, cancer

incidence rates will remain available on TCR's website and in publications and data products. The rates will include a note that the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted health services, leading to delays and reductions in cancer screening, diagnosis, and reporting to some central cancer registries. These may have contributed to a decline in new cases for most cancer sites in 2020.

These findings suggest a lingering impact from the pandemic on 2020 cancer data. It also illustrates a need for thorough consideration when conducting analyses using data from 2020.

Staff Updates by Allison Vasquez, BS, CTR

Staff Updates

<u>Fond Farewells</u>

Debra Anderson, CTR

Debra Anderson retired from TCR, effective July 1, 2023. Debra collectively held 18.5 years of state service. In her role, she served as Team Lead for PHR 2/3/4. She performed as the TCR Regional Representative addressing compliance for North Texas. Debra worked closely with cancer reporters, ensuring facilities met cancer reporting deadlines. Her dedication and commitment to TCR and fellow cancer reporters will be missed.

Wanda Taylor, CTR

Wanda Taylor retired from TCR, effective July 1, 2023. Wanda held over 28 years of state service, 26 of those years at TCR. Wanda joined the Northeast Registry Operations Group in 1997 and earned her Certified Tumor Registrar credential in 2006. Over the past 26 years, Wanda served in many roles such as training, reviewing, casefinding and abstraction, as well as consolidation. Her dedication and commitment to TCR and fellow cancer reporters will also be missed.

<u>Welcome Back</u>

Dora Rodriguez-Flores, CTR – Program Specialist in the Regional Operations Group, effective April 2022

Dora joined the Northwest Registry Operations Group in June 1999 as a Public Health Technician. Dora earned her Certified Tumor Registrar in September 2005. From July 2016 through April 2022, Dora held another position within the DSHS agency, but returned to TCR within the Registry Operations group in April 2022. Dora has been vital in overseeing compliance for various regions in Texas. We are beyond thrilled to have her back.

Jennifer Beck, BS, RHIT – Program Specialist in the Regional Operations Group, effective July 2023

Jennifer previously joined TCR as a Public Health and Prevention Specialist where she worked for several years. She completed her associate's degree in Health Information Technology and is CTR eligible. She is a Registered Health Information Technician. Jennifer returned to TCR in July as a Program Specialist.

Paige Miller, PhD, MPH – Senior Scientist/Manager of the Epidemiology Team, effective April 2023

Paige joined the Epidemiology Team in January 2017. Paige earned a PhD and MS in Nutritional Sciences from Pennsylvania State University, and an MPH in Quantitative Methods from the Harvard School of Public Health. She also completed a post-doctoral fellowship with the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program at the National Cancer Institute. Paige has served in different roles at the TCR, including the Epidemiology Team Manager and Senior Research Specialist. After a one-year hiatus, Paige thankfully returned to TCR in April 2023 as our new Senior Scientist. She currently manages a team of four epidemiologists within the Epidemiology and Analysis Group, and her efforts have been crucial in moving IRB applications, data requests, and data reports forward.

Alison Little, MPP – Manager of Epidemiology and Analysis Group

Alison worked in TCR from 2010-2012 and has returned as the manager of the Epidemiology and Analysis Group. She has a Master of Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley and a Certificate in Public Health Leadership (with an

emphasis on informatics) from UT Health Science Center and the University of Texas at Austin. She is about to complete one year back at TCR.

Promotions

Allison Vasquez, BS, CTR – Regional Operations Program Supervisor, effective January 1, 2023

Allison joined the Southwest Registry Operations Group in August 2016 as a Public Health Prevention Specialist. Allison earned her CTR in October 2018 and holds a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences and Chemistry. She has been with the registry for over seven years in various positions within the Southwest Registry Operations team and the E-Reporting team.

Cindy Dorsey, CTR – Quality Assurance Team Manager, effective August 2023

Cindy Dorsey joined the central registry as a contractor processing records for the Registry Operations Group in late 2006. She earned her CTR in 1998. Her experience includes over 10 years in a central registry and over 11 years in an accredited ACoS hospital-based registry. During her time with TCR, Cindy has worked consolidating records and putting together the TCR Handbook in various positions. She has since moved up to the position of manager of the Quality Assurance Team.

New Staff

Carl Martin joined the Regional Operations Group in January 2023 as a Program Specialist. Carl has completed the Cancer Data Management program and gained years of experience working in a hospital setting as a medical transcriptionist. He also holds a Master of Library Science and is CTR eligible.

Mia Hernandez joined the Regional Operations Group in January 2023 as a Program Specialist. Mia completed her bachelor's degree in Exercise Science Clinical Populations with an associate degree in Science. She earned previous experience working as a cardiac rehab intern focusing on data collection/trends and cardiac rehab. Mia will be CTR eligible after one year with the registry.

Sunila Vijayan, CTR, joined the Regional Operations Group in March 2023 as a Public Health Prevention Specialist. Sunila earned her CTR in July 2021. She also obtained her bachelor's degree in Science. She has completed the Cancer Data Management program. With over a year experience working as a Cancer Data Specialist, her knowledge will benefit the registry.

Jackline Wairimu, CTR, joined the Education and Training Group in March 2023 as a Program Specialist. Jackline earned her CTR in October 2021. She has completed the Cancer Data Management program and has experience working in health care analytics and clinical data.
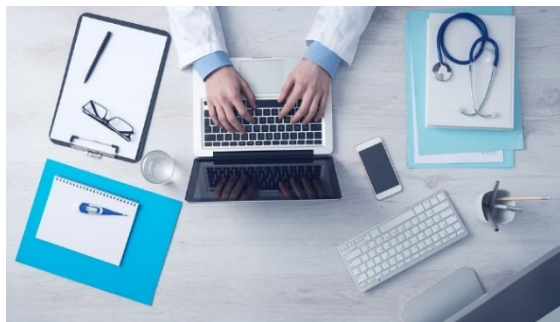
Ruby Vallejo, RHIT, joined the Regional Operations Group in June 2023 as a Public Health Prevention Specialist. Ruby completed her bachelor's degree in Health Information Management with an associate's degree in Health Information Technology. She received her Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) certification in 2013. She will be CTR eligible after one year with the registry.

Jessica Pecina, RHIT, joined the Regional Operations Group in July 2023 as a Public Health Prevention Specialist. Jessica completed her bachelor's degree in Health Information Management with an associate's degree in Health Information Technology and is CTR eligible. She is also a Registered Health Information Technician. Her previous experience includes working as a surveillance specialist with the Department of State Health Services Birth Defects Registry.

Meagan Gamblin joined the Regional Operations Group in August 2023 as a Public Health Prevention Specialist. Meagan completed her bachelor's degree in Medical Anthropology & Global Health, Human Evolutionary Biology and is CTR eligible. Her previous experience includes working as a surveillance specialist with the Department of State Health Services Newborn Screening Program and as a Clinical Laboratory Assistant in the hospital setting.

Modified Records Update

In our 2023 Reporting Requirements update sent on March 27, 2023, TCR noted that we will be accepting modified (M) records starting with the 2022 admission year. At this time, the capability to re-submit modified records is only available for facilities using third-party software. WebPlus users will continue to use the update spreadsheet for any record modifications.

TCR has met with software vendors who service Texas clients and discussed implementation. The software vendors delivered a list of key data items that will "trigger" a M record submission. TCR will provide this list to all facilities in October 2023. We anticipate receiving M records starting November 2023.

Please contact your software vendor if you have any additional questions or concerns regarding how to submit M records to TCR.

Coding in Practice

Timely Reporting Calendar

Cases admitted in:	Must be reported no later than:
January 2023	July 2023
February 2023	August 2023
March 2023	September 2023
April 2023	October 2023
May 2023	November 2023
June 2023	December 2023
July 2023	January 2024
August 2023	February 2024
September 2023	March 2024
October 2023	April 2024
November 2023	May 2024
December 2023	June 2024

As our reporting facilities transition to diagnosis year 2023, we decided to focus in on a set of coded items introduced in the new diagnosis year:

- Neoadjuvant treatment
- Extent of disease
- Mets at diagnosis.

These coded fields were added to enhance the depth and quality of the patient data within each abstract. A list of the set of coded items can be found here.

Use the links below to find helpful tools and references.

- SEER 2018 EOD Manual
- EOD 2018 SEER*RSA
- SEER*RSA
- SEER Educate
- Ask a SEER Registrar

Educational and Training Opportunities

TCR offers various training opportunities throughout the year to assist Texas reporters with the changes of ever-evolving cancer reporting.

FLccSC

Our training website FlccSC is a great place for you to brush up on knowledge and sharpen reporting skills. Our site is a web-based learning management system that allows customization of courses to address the specific needs and demands of reporters.

On the FLccSC website:

- Users enroll and learn at their own pace
- We develop and maintain state-specific educational courses for our Texas reporters
- Share important cancer reporting updates.

Our site is free for Texas reporters and available 24 hours a day.

2023-2024 NAACCR Webinar Series

TCR is excited to sponsor the 2023-2024 NAACCR Webinar Series free for Texas reporters. NAACCR will present a different webinar the beginning of each month from October 2023 through September. Each webinar last three hours and provides applicable CEs.

NAACCR CTR Exam Preparation & Review Webinar Series

TCR offers a discounted price of $50 for the *NAACCR CTR Exam Preparation & Review Webinar Series* to Texas reporters planning to sit for the CTR certification exam. The -week sessions, offered three times a year, provide access to live presentations, recordings, quizzes, helpful study tools, and active discussion board to share study tips and provide support. Be sure to check with the NAACCR website for the next session in 2023.

The following resources are available for more information on reportability:

- 2022 SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual, Appendix E- Reportable and Non-reportable Examples
- CAnswer Forum
- SEER Inquiry System