

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) recently received results from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 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 for 2013 incidence data. The data were evaluated on quality, completeness, and timeliness as demonstrated by meeting five key data quality criteria. Once again, the TCR achieved NPCR "High Quality Data Standards" for diagnosis year 2013 and was recognized as a CDC-NPCR Registry of

Distinction; and for the tenth time in its history, the TCR received NAACCR Gold Certification. 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! 🇺🇸

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1999-2013 United States Cancer Statistics Report Released

adapted from CDC Cancer Announcement

The [1999-2013 United States Cancer Statistics \(USCS\): Incidence and Mortality Web-based Report](#) includes the official federal statistics on cancer incidence from registries that have high-quality data, and cancer mortality statistics. It is produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This report shows that in 2013, 1,536,119 Americans received a new diagnosis of invasive cancer, and 584,872 Americans died of this disease (these counts do not include *in situ* cancers or the more than 1 million cases of basal and squamous cell skin cancers diagnosed each year).

This year's report features information on invasive cancer cases diagnosed during 2013,

the most recent year of incidence data available, among residents of 49 states, six metropolitan areas, and the District of Columbia—geographic areas in which about 99% of the U.S. population resides. Incidence data are from CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) and NCI's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program. Data from population-based central cancer registries in these states and metropolitan areas meet the criteria for inclusion in this report.

The report also provides cancer mortality data collected and processed by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. Mortality statistics, based on records of deaths that occurred during 2013, are

available for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The report also includes incidence rates and counts for Puerto Rico for 2009 through 2013 by sex and age, as well brain tumor and childhood cancer data.

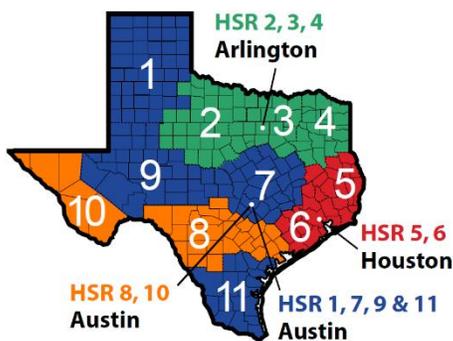
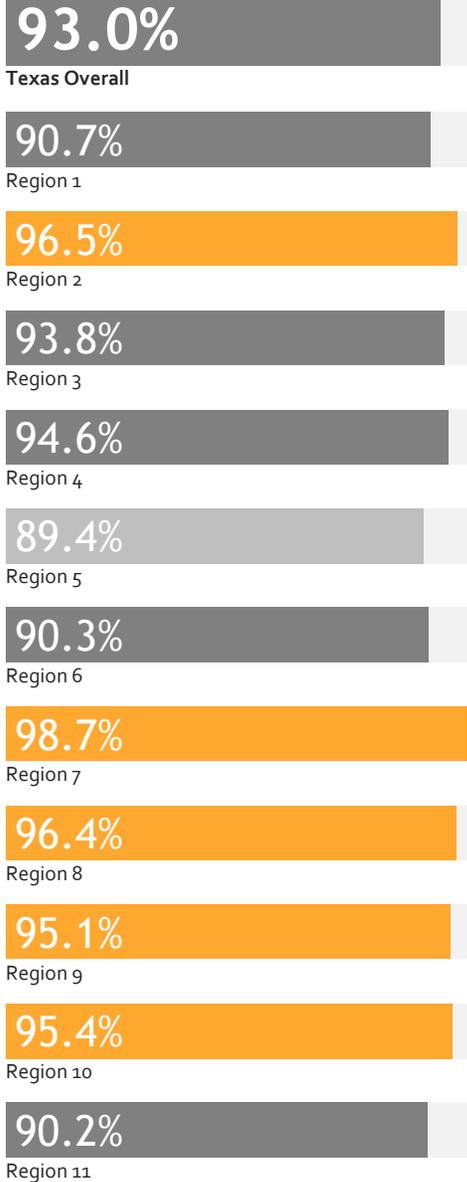
USCS data are presented in the following applications—

- ➔ United States Cancer Statistics (USCS): nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/
- ➔ Interactive Cancer Atlas (InCA): nccd.cdc.gov/DCPC_INCA/
- ➔ State Cancer Facts: nccd.cdc.gov/StateCancerFacts/ 🇺🇸

COMPLETENESS BY REGION

Diagnosis Year 2014

As of August 1, 2016



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Check out the TCR's Completeness Dashboard: tinyurl.com/TCRcompleteness

Epidemiology Corner

by Vichayapan Bandhaya, MPH

Estimating the cost of HPV-related cancers in Texas

Human papillomavirus (HPV)-related cancers are a major worldwide public health concern. Studies conducted globally have shown that virtually all cases of cervical cancer are caused by HPV, and that the virus plays a major etiologic role in other non-cervical cancers (e.g. oropharyngeal, anal, penis, vulvar, and vaginal). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the prevalence of HPV is so high that most sexually active persons become infected with HPV at least once in their lifetime. Despite this finding, there is virtually no state-specific data on the direct and indirect costs of HPV. Therefore, as part of a strategic plan to reduce morbidity and mortality from HPV-related cancers in Texas, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is spearheading a project to estimate the annual direct and indirect state health care costs attributable to these cancers for the first time using information from both the Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) and Medicaid claims data. Results from this project are expected to be included in the TCR's Cancer in Texas 2017 report.

TCR data is being used to identify HPV-related cancer cases, which are then linked to Medicaid to evaluate the healthcare cost to the State. Medicaid is a jointly funded state-federal program that pays for health care services to approximately one in six Texans. Given the breadth of health care services Medicaid provides, Medicaid claims data captures a holistic person-level measure of health care utilization and cost. Estimating

the burden of HPV-related cancers among Medicaid beneficiaries is also of particular public health importance since Medicaid is the sole provider of health care coverage to one of the most vulnerable populations in Texas—many of whom are more likely to be disproportionately affected by cancer.

Studies have shown that the economic and societal burden of cancer to the United States is tremendous. In addition to the direct medical cost associated with treatment and diagnosis, cancer patients and survivors incur substantial loss of income as well as productivity due to long-term health effects. HPV-related cancers are preventable as HPV vaccines are safe and effective for both males and females when administered prior to HPV infection. Estimating the direct and indirect costs of HPV-related cancers in Texas is crucial for informing policy makers on cost-effective cancer-prevention strategies that can affect both the efficiency of resource allocations as well as the health and well-being of Texans as a whole.

Be sure to check out the TCR's Statistical Data webpage for all the latest data updates: www.dshs.state.tx.us/tcr/data.shtm.

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2016 FACT SHEETS

Check out the 2016 Fact Sheets: www.dshs.texas.gov/tcr/statisticalData/2016FactSheets.aspx

The 2016 Texas Cancer Fact Sheets are a collection of statistical summaries for a number of common cancer types in Texas for 2016. They provide a quick overview of frequently requested cancer statistics. Available statistics may include incidence, mortality, survival, and rates by race/ethnicity/sex.

NAACCR Conference Poster Presentation

by Patricia Thompson, BS, RHIA

The North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) held its Annual Conference June 11-16, 2016 in St. Louis, Missouri. When CDC staff invited Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) staff to participate at the conference by presenting TCR's Meaningful Use (MU) experience, the TCR MU team jumped at the opportunity. TCR's abstract was accepted as a poster presentation.

The goal for the presentation was to evaluate the determinants of provider success in transmitting cancer data through an electronic health record to the TCR for MU. The MU program is part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs, which provide incentive payments to eligible providers who successfully demonstrate the meaningful use of EHRs. Providers are required to report clinical data to many different groups and the state cancer registry is one such group.

To meet the requirements for reporting to the cancer registry, the provider must diagnose and/or treat cancer, have an EHR that is certified for cancer reporting, and register their intent to participate with the TCR. Currently, 360 physician practices have registered their intent with the TCR. Of the 360 registered, 173 physician practices have

EHRs certified for cancer reporting. This number represents more than 3900 physicians with certified EHRs.

The next step in the process is onboarding and testing. Providers who have certified EHRs are invited to send test files. Two validation tools are used to evaluate the structure and content of the file. When the



source: www.naacccr.org

file passes these tests, it is imported into TCR's system where the content undergoes a more thorough evaluation. Once all of the required cancer information is received and after several test files have been successful, the provider is placed into production with ongoing submissions.

Presently, 30 providers utilizing several different EHR vendors are engaged in

testing, and many have sent a number of test files. TCR staff actively participates with the CDC and other states in monthly/bi-monthly calls with five different vendors to work on the issues. There are now two providers ready to be placed into production.

Although the number of physicians currently in production is relatively low, when presenting the poster at the NAACCR Conference, many states shared similar experiences and results. A lack of resources was a common theme, as to why progress has been slow.

It is exciting to be on the brink of such a new, "meaningful," and productive project! The exchange of health information electronically by physician offices is the way of the future, and the MU initiative is one way to help move health care providers toward this future. Check out the TCR's poster presentation:

www.naacccr.org/AC2016/Posters/50.pdf

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Texas Cancer Programs Receive National Achievement Award

adapted from American College of Surgeons (www.facs.org)

The Commission on Cancer (CoC), a Quality Program of the American College of Surgeons, presented the 2015 Outstanding Achievement Award (OAA) to 23 CoC-accredited cancer programs in the U.S., including two in Texas. Congratulations to the following Texas Cancer Programs receiving this distinguished award:

- Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX
- Baylor Medical Center at Grapevine, Grapevine, TX

Established in 2004, the OAA recognizes cancer programs that strive for excellence in

demonstrating compliance with the CoC standards and are committed to ensuring high quality cancer care. A CoC-accredited cancer program is eligible to earn the OAA after completing the accreditation survey and receiving a Performance Report that indicates an accreditation award of "Three-Year with Commendation." Specifically, the program must receive commendation ratings for the seven commendation level standards and no deficiencies for the remaining 27 standards.

OAA recipients represent a multitude of health care facilities, including community-based facilities, academic hospitals,

integrated networks, pediatric hospitals, and freestanding cancer centers. New programs undergoing their initial survey and National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated programs are not eligible to earn the OAA.

For more information, please visit www.facs.org/quality-programs/cancer/coc/info/outstanding.



source: www.jucs.org

Training Corner

by Marianna Prevatt, MPH

Greetings, Texas Cancer Reporters! The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) Training Group recently attended the 2016 National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) Conference in Las Vegas, and is energized by the wealth of great information on AJCC TNM Staging, as well as many other topics.

Special Topics

Attention to the following areas ensures high quality cancer data through your valued efforts.

- ➔ For cases diagnosed on or after January 1, 2015, directly assigned SEER Summary Stage 2000 is required from all facilities.
- ➔ Appropriate T, N, and M categories should be assigned based on the above AJCC rules for cases diagnosed on or after January 1, 2016.
- ➔ Clinical and pathologic indicators are being added to six of the AJCC T, N, and M data items. The indicators are to be added by modifying the existing values for the individual T, N, and M data items. The revisions will be incorporated into software look-ups to allow for selection of necessary 'p' values within the clinical codes and selection of necessary 'c' values within the pathologic codes when abstracting.
- ➔ To assist registrars in preparing abstracts, NCRA's Education Committee has created a series of informational abstracts. These site-specific abstracts provide an outline to follow when determining what text to include : www.cancerregistryeducation.org/rr
- ➔ The most recent version of the NAACCR Standards Implementation Guidelines were revised on June 2016 in and can be found here: www.naacr.org/StandardsandRegistryOperations/ImplementationGuidelines.aspx

2016 Cancer Reporting Handbook

The 2016 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.texas.gov/tcr/publications.shtm.

AJCC TNM Basic Training Webinar Series by TCR Staff

The TCR is offering an online basic fundamental training course on AJCC TNM Staging 7th Edition once a month. This training is suitable for those reporters who need a refresher, are new to the field, or have never used AJCC TNM Staging before.

Each session will be held from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM CT on the first Friday of each month. The agenda for each session is as follows: 9:00 – 9:45 AM: *How to use the AJCC 7th edition manual*, 10:00 – 11:00 AM: *AJCC TNM Basics*.

Please, check our website for updates and registration: www.dshs.texas.gov/tcr/training_schedule.shtm. The presentations are also available for self-study on our website under the 'Online Education & Training' section: www.dshs.texas.gov/tcr/training_resources.shtm.

NAACCR Webinars

The 2015 – 2016 NAACCR Webinar Series began in October of 2015 and continues through September 2016. A new webinar series will start again in the fall, so please look for an announcement soon. The TCR broadcasts these webinars in multiple locations throughout Texas free of charge for your benefit and continuing education requirements. Upcoming webinars are displayed below.

2016 NAACCR WEBINAR SCHEDULE

- 08.04.16 Collecting Cancer Data: Bladder
- 09.01.16 Coding Pitfalls

For the complete listing of all webinars sponsored by the TCR, including past webinars, please see the TCR Webinar page at www.dshs.texas.gov/tcr/webinars.shtm. Please note that it may still be possible to earn CE hours for past webinars.

NCRA Webinars

No NCRA webinars are scheduled currently, but please, check our website frequently for updates.

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. The fall prep course runs on Tuesdays from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm CST from August 23, 2016 through October 11, 2016. 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/r/zSYBFQ2

CTR EXAM PREP SCHEDULE

- 08.23.16 Introduction to the Exam Format/Registry Operations & Management/Central Registry Activities
- 08.30.16 Data Collection: Casefinding, Abstracting, Coding, Follow-up, Survivorship, and Outcomes
- 09.06.16 Data Collection: Coding Surgery Data Items/Anatomy & Physiology
- 09.13.16 Data Quality Assurance/Cancer Committee & Cancer Conference
- 09.20.16 Analysis & Data Usage
- 09.27.16 Data Collection: ICD-O-3 Coding/Multiple Primary & Histology Coding Rules/Heme and Lymphoid Neoplasm Coding
- 10.04.16 Data Collection: Staging Systems
- 10.11.16 Timed Test; Overview; Test Taking Tips; Q & A

Tentative CTR Exam dates are October 15, 2016 – November 5, 2016. Additional updates will be posted on our website at www.dshs.texas.gov/tcr/Training/CTR-Prep-Resources.aspx.

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

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New TCR Employees

by Ashley Dixon, MPH

Please join us in welcoming the following staff who recently started at the Texas Cancer Registry (TCR).

Rhiannon Soto, RHIT, CTR joined the Southwest Texas Registry Operations Group in April 2016 as a Public Health and Prevention Specialist. Rhiannon is a Certified Tumor Registrar (CTR), has an Associate in Health Information Technology degree, and a Certificate of Technology in Cancer Data Management. She was previously employed with the Austin Cancer Center doing cancer registry work.

Melody Griffith, BS started in May 2016 as a Public Health and Prevention Specialist in the Quality Assurance Group. Melody earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Texas State University in Health Information Management and has her Registered Health Administration Management certification. She has worked in medical records for over 2 years. Melody is CTR eligible.

Vichayapan “Nile” Bandhaya, MPH joined the Epidemiology Group as an Epidemiologist in June 2016. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master of Public Health from Columbia University. Nile has invaluable experience working with Public Health, Epidemiology, and large databases. She worked on the first Regional Hepatitis Action Plan for the Western Pacific Region at the World Health Organization (WHO) and with the Alternative

Sexualities Health and Research Alliance in a community-based research project focused on improving healthcare delivery and access to stigmatized and/or marginalized populations.

Brandy Reed, NRCMA joined the eReporting and Training Group in July 2016 as a Training Specialist. She holds a Medical Assistant Diploma from Southern Careers Institute at Austin, and is working toward earning her Bachelor in Psychology from the University of Phoenix. Brandy is a Certified Medical Assistant with over 11 years of patient education experience and has worked in primary care for breast and cervical cancer patients. Additionally, she has 5 years' experience as a medical assistant instructor teaching courses such as anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, ICD-9, ICD-10, and CPT coding, and insurance practices. Brandy is CTR eligible.

Andrea “Annie” Walker, BESS started in July 2016 as a Program Specialist in the eReporting and Training Group. She holds a Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science with a Major in Pre-Physical Therapy, from Texas State University at San Marcos, and she is a Licensed Massage Therapist. Annie has been working as a License and Permit Specialist for the Texas Medical Board for the last 2 years. She served as President of the Pre-Physical Therapy Organization and was a research assistant at Texas State University. She has taken anatomy, physiology, and medical terminology. Annie is CTR eligible.

Kavitha Madishetty, PhD joined the eReporting and Training Group as a Program Specialist in August 2016. She holds a Bachelor of Botany, Zoology, and Chemistry, a Masters in Biochemistry, both from the University of Hyderabad, India, and a Ph.D. in Biology and Biotechnology from University of Hyderabad, and the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay, India. Kavitha has taken anatomy and physiology courses and previously taught these courses as well. She has worked as a biologist doing DNA testing and interpretation, analyzing results, recording patient health information, and contacting patients to help them understand test results. Kavitha is CTR eligible.

Allison Vasquez, BS started as a Public Health and Prevention Specialist in the Southwest Texas Registry Operations Group in August 2016. Allison has a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science/Chemistry from Texas A&M University–Kingsville. She has also taken the required anatomy and physiology courses and will be CTR eligible after one year with the registry.

Rebecca Juarez, BS joined the Southwest Texas Registry Operations Group in August 2016 as a Public Health and Prevention Specialist. Rebecca has a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from University of Texas El Paso. She has also taken the required anatomy and physiology courses and will be CTR eligible after one year with the registry.

TCR Branch Manager

Melanie Williams, PhD returned as the Branch Manager for the TCR on August 1, 2016. For the past 15 months, Dr. Williams has served as the Director for the Office of e-Health Coordination, at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Prior to that position, she worked at the TCR in various capacities, including Branch Manager, Senior Epidemiologist, and Cancer Cluster Epidemiologist. Prior to her time at the TCR, she held positions at the Texas Department of Health (TDH) in Health Care Quality and Standards and Vital Statistics. Dr. Williams has actively served on national cancer initiatives, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Interoperability Physician Reporting Workgroup (co-chair) and CDC's Stage 2 Meaningful Use Public Health Reporting Requirements Task Force, as well as been recognized by the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) with their Merit, Achievement, and Leadership Awards. Additionally, she has co-authored a variety of publications, including the 2006 Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer, and Cancer Incidence in US Hispanic/Latinos, the first and most comprehensive national reports on cancers in U.S. Latinos. Her research is published in journals, such as Southern Medical Journal, Cancer, Journal of Women's Health, and JAMA. Melanie has Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in Communication and Public Address, and Communication Studies from the University of North Texas, and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, where she specialized in health communication and statistical research methods. 

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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 5NU58DP003902-05.

State Agency Funding

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

Questions regarding information found in this newsletter, or suggestions for future issues can be directed to Ashley Dixon, in Austin at 512-776-3629, 1-800-252-8059, or email at ashley.dixon@dshs.state.tx.us.

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