

**Plain Language Summary of *Texas Cancer Registry News, Spring 2024*** The *Texas Cancer Reporting News* is the newsletter of the Texas Cancer Registry. We publish it twice a year for cancer reporters and people interested in the registry. This is a plain-language summary of this newsletter.

### ***TCR Updates***

The Texas Cancer Registry receives cancer data from reporting facilities every year. It compiles the data into files to send to three national standard-setters. The data files need to meet specific high-quality and completeness criteria. For one, it is difficult to identify most cancer cases using only death certificates. These cases do not contain important information used in cancer surveillance and research. For example, they do not have information on disease progression or treatment. This year, TCR reached the lowest percent of cases identified only through death certificate. Cancer reporting facilities played a critical role in achieving this target.

### ***Training Corner***

#### ***Coding in Practice***

#### ***You Asked, We Answered***

#### ***Educational and Training Opportunities***

These articles contain information for cancer reporters. The information includes how to code cancer data to send cancer abstracts to TCR. The “Training Corner” discusses a check that the Texas Cancer Registry performed on how cancer stage coding in a sample. It shows how to code stage in tricky situations. “Coding in Practice” discusses how to code names and Social Security numbers. “You Asked, We Answered” is about how to code data sent to TCR. “Educational and Training Opportunities” refers cancer reporters to online trainings. If you are a cancer reporter, please see the *Texas Cancer Reporting News* itself.

### ***Epidemiology Corner***

This article discusses impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer trends. Our fall 2023 newsletter article described how incidence rates decreased in 2020. Incidence rates are the number of new cancers diagnosed during a specific time. There were more decreases among cancers that can be detected early through screening than cancers detected through symptoms. The current article discusses cancer data from 2021. Incidence rates increased to levels near those before the pandemic for many cancers. Yet, rates remained low for some cancers. The data do not show an increase in 2021 data that we might expect if cases that were missed in 2020 were caught the next year. This could have happened due to canceled cancer screenings during the pandemic. We do not know how cancers that were not identified during the pandemic will impact future data trends. We will continue watching the data.

Please visit [dshs.texas.gov/tcr](https://dshs.texas.gov/tcr) for cancer data and more information about the registry.

Thank you to all TCR staff who contributed to *Texas Cancer Reporting News*!