

Additional Assessment of Cancers in Houston 2000-2016: Summary

Background

In August 2019 and January 2020, the state health department analyzed cancers in 10 census tracts in Houston, Texas. Recently, we analyzed additional cancers in 21 census tracts (including the 10 census tracts from the original analyses) because of continued community concerns.

What We Did

The Houston Health Department told us about the health concerns of people living in these areas. To figure out if the number of cancer cases in this area were higher than normal, we did the following:

- Analyzed nine types of adult (ages 20 years and older) cancers using Texas Cancer Registry.
- Analyzed six types of adult cancers in specific census tracts.
- Looked at those diagnosed with cancer from 2000 to 2016.
- Adjusted for differences in age, sex, and race/ethnicity, which are related to cancer risk.
- Compared the number of cases in these areas to the number of expected cases.

What We Found

Adult cancers in expected range:

- Intrahepatic Bile Duct
- Nose and Nasal Cavity
- Other Biliary
- Urinary Bladder

What We Found (continued)

Adult cancers above the expected range in some census tracts:

- Acute myeloid leukemia
- Esophagus
- Larynx (throat)
- Liver
- Lung and bronchus

This analysis cannot tell us about the causes of cancers in this area. It only lets us compare the number of cancer cases to what we expect based on cancer rates in Texas. These results might be due to random chance alone. The health department could not account for lifestyle factors such as smoking or diet in this analysis.

The health department will continue monitoring cancer in the area, upon request, when new data is available.

Resources and More Information

About Cancer Clusters

cdc.gov/nceh/clusters/about.htm

What Causes Cancer?

cancer.org/cancer/cancercauses/index

For questions, comments, or requests for the full report:

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