

Texas Cancer Reporting News

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Texas Cancer Registry

Texas Department of State Health Services
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TCR Updates

By Katie Dahlquist, MEd

Calls for Data and National Recognition

This past fall, the Texas Cancer Registry completed the annual calls for data. We submitted 2,342,131 Texas resident cancer cases diagnosed from 1995-2017 to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Program of Cancer Registries and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries.

We are excited to announce that TCR achieved NPCR “High Quality Data Standards” for diagnosis year 2017 and was recognized as a CDC-NPCR Registry of Distinction. For the 14th time in its history, the TCR received NAACCR Gold Certification. In addition to these recognitions, we improved across many key metrics.

Reaching this level of data quality and completeness is not possible without the 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!

Metafile Update

The NAACCR V18D metafile file was posted to the [TCR software webpage](#) earlier this summer.

Because there are no changes to reporting requirements for 2020 cases, you can submit them using the updated software.

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Epidemiology Corner

By Keisha Musonda, MPH, and Paige Miller-Gianturco, PhD, MPH

Multi-State Study Identifies that Children with Birth Defects Have an Increased Risk of Certain Cancers

Last year, researchers used TCR data in a multi-state study that examined associations between birth defects and childhood cancers. This study was led by a team of Baylor College of Medicine researchers who collaborated with state cancer registries, birth defects registries, and vital registration systems in Texas, Arkansas, Michigan, and North Carolina.

For this study, the researchers set out to assess whether children with certain birth defects or those with more than one birth defect are more likely to develop specific childhood cancers. After they obtained the required approvals from the Texas Department of State Health Services Institutional Review Board and Research Executive Steering Committee, TCR collaborated with the DSHS Center for Health Statistics and DSHS Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch to link statewide data on cancer, births and birth defects.

In total, the study examined data from over 10 million children from participating states. Overall, researchers found an elevated risk of childhood cancer in children with birth defects. That means children with chromosomal anomalies and nonchromosomal birth defects were more likely to be diagnosed with cancer during their childhood compared to children without birth defects.

When evaluated individually, all chromosomal anomalies and single-gene disorders (trisomy 13, 18, 21 and Turner syndrome; tuberous sclerosis and neurofibromatosis) were associated with an increased risk of cancer. Researchers also found that as the number of nonchromosomal birth defects increased, so did the risk for cancer before age 18. In addition, researchers found strong associations between 40 specific birth defects and specific childhood cancers.

The full publication is available online at [10.1001/jamaoncol.2019.1215](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaoncol.2019.1215)¹.

The TCR will continue to support researchers like the ones responsible for this novel research through data linkages with the most current data available.

¹ Lupo PJ, et al. (2019). Association Between Birth Defects and Cancer Risk Among Children and Adolescents in a Population-Based Assessment of 10 Million Live Births. *JAMA Oncology*, 5(8), 1150.

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Training Corner

By Elizabeth Harvey, CTR

FLccSC Training Website

Did you know TCR offers a web-based education platform for all cancer reporters, regardless of level of expertise?

FLccSC is an online training platform developed by the Florida Cancer Data System and the South Carolina Central Cancer Registry. It allows TCR to develop and maintain state-specific education courses online.

Through FLccSC, you can review the basics of cancer abstracting and keep up with reporting and coding updates. You can also view NAACCR webinars and TCR Statewide Training modules for intermediate and advanced reporters.

Our educational courses include videos, PowerPoint slides, and PDF support documents. Auto-scored quizzes let you test your knowledge of the material. You will earn a certificate for all completed courses. CE credits are available for some modules.

This self-paced educational platform is available anytime, so you don't have to travel to a training site. Register for free on the [FLccSC website](#).

TCR Training Webpage

Looking for a schedule of upcoming Texas Reporter trainings? Wanting to download the materials for a recent NAACCR webinar? Looking for information on the CTR exam and prep classes?

Then check out our [Education and Training webpage](#)! It's updated frequently so you can stay up to date on all of our training resources. We're also looking at options to add the coding tips and best practices that were previously featured in our newsletter to our website. This means we'll be able to share this information with you throughout the year.

Coming Soon: TCR Training Webinar Series

This fall, TCR will offer our 10-part training webinar series for all cancer registry staff, including beginner, intermediate and advanced reporters. The series will cover the coding rules for cases diagnosed in 2018 and later. Details will be posted to our [TCR Trainings](#) webpage when they are available.



Have a question about TCR education and training opportunities? Email us at TCR.training@dshs.texas.gov.



TCR Data Products

We recently updated several data tables and resources on our website for 2020. If you would like to be notified when new TCR products are available, [sign up](#) for email updates.

- [2020 Texas Cancer Registry Annual Legislative Report](#)
- [Estimated Cancer Cases and Deaths, 2020](#)
- [Cancer Incidence and Mortality, 2013-2017](#)
- [Childhood and Adolescent Cancer, 2008-2017](#)
- [Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer, 2013-2017](#)
- [TCR Web Query Tool, 1995-2017](#)
- [Relative](#) and [Cause-Specific](#) Survival for Malignant Cancers Diagnosed 2013-2017
- [Estimated Cancer Prevalence as of January 1, 2017](#)
- [How TCR Data Are Used](#)
- [TCR Data Dictionary](#)

Look for new data products, including web reports on cancers with modifiable risk factors, in the coming months.



COVID-19 Information and Resources

TCR Staff Availability

TCR staff are working from home while our physical locations are closed. We continue to provide trainings and support to Texas cancer reporters, review IRB applications, and respond to data requests. If you need to talk to us, don't hesitate to reach out. Our goal is to respond to your requests by email or phone within 24 hours.

Contact information for TCR staff, including email addresses, is available on our [Contact TCR webpage](#).

DSHS Resources

The Texas Department of State Health Services is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in responding to COVID-19. The [DSHS website](#) provides information on what to do if you're sick and how to be tested. It also has links to FAQs and communication tools.

Mental Health Support Line

Also, if you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed by the pandemic, help is available. You can call the HHSC COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line at 833-986-1919. Mental health professionals can help deal with stress, anxiety and depression.