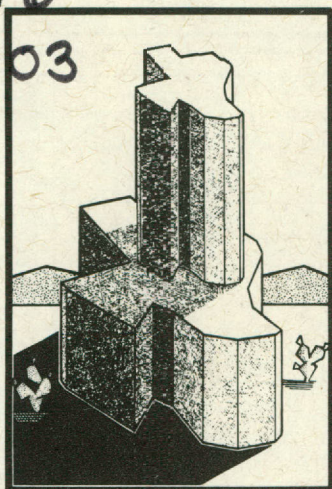


H600. b
C16
06:03



Vol. 6, No. 3
Fall 1995

Texas Cancer Reporting News

Cancer Registry Division 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 512-502-0680 (800-252-8059)

Walter D. Wilkerson, Jr., M.D.,
Chair, Texas Board of Health

David R. Smith, M.D.,
Commissioner of Health

Government Publications
Texas State Documents

FEB 12 1996

From the Director

How time flies when you are having fun!! Time has been flying by and I am not sure we are always having fun, but we are making significant progress. Most of our regional registries have been fully staffed and we are currently orienting them and providing training in central cancer registry operations. We hope you can meet the new staff at the Texas Tumor Registrar's Association (TxTRA) annual meeting in San Antonio in October; if you did not have the opportunity to do so at our annual meeting in August.

We are planning our next round of regional focus groups and this will give you an additional occasion to meet our new staff. We also want feedback on how things are going with the new reporting data elements and time requirements.

The first of many to come annual Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) Conferences was held August 2-4, 1995 in Austin. We had 55 non-TCR participants attend, representing 50 different reporting institutions. Many others wanted to come, but current timing was not good for them. The next annual conference is planned for April 1996 in Austin, so mark your calendars and save your dollars so you can attend. We will let you know the exact date as soon as it is known.

We are beginning to receive and process 1995 cancer reports in addition to reports for the back years. Please remember your reporting commitments for the previous years data and send them in as soon as possible. The reporting of data from all institutions will allow us to publish statewide cancer incidence data, similar to those presented for 5 regions in the newly released *Impact of Cancer on Texas, 6th Edition*. If you would like a copy of this report, please contact our Austin Office.

Other good news includes the availability of SANDCRAB Lite, free of charge, to meet your electronic reporting needs. We plan to hold future training sessions in the use of this software. SANDCRAB Lite is discussed more in a later section.

I could go on and on, but space is limited. Let us hear from you. I like hearing the positive as well as the negative. Thanks for your efforts and continued support in making the Texas Cancer Registry a success.

Nancy Weiss, Ph.D.

MEET THE STAFF

Depository
Dallas Public Library

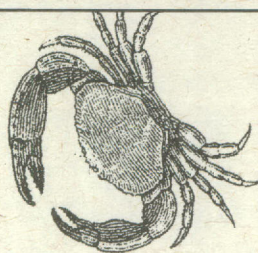
The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) would like to introduce Ms. Pat Ploegsma. Pat joined the TCR staff in February as the Regional Program Manager for PHR's 1, 9 and 10 and she is officed in Lubbock. Pat is a Registered Record Administrator (RRA) and has a B.S. in Medical Record Administration from Louisiana Tech University. She also participated in a six month professional cancer registry pilot academic training program at the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston.

Pat's past experience includes positions as Director of Medical Records at Lynn County Hospital, the Assistant Director of Medical Records at Shannon West Texas Hospital in San Angelo, the Tumor Registrar at Angelo Community Hospital, and most recently the Quality Management Special Projects Coordinator at Methodist Hospital in Lubbock. She also has been an instructor at Howard Junior College.

Pat has extensive experience in cancer registry software, database applications, and computer quality control procedures. We are very proud to have Pat as a member of our TCR team and hope that you will contact her for assistance. Pat can be reached at the Texas Cancer Registry, Texas Department of Health, 1109 Kemper, Lubbock, TX 79403. Her phone number is (806) 767-0323.

Most recently, the San Antonio regional office has added another member to our team, Ms. Kathryn S. Woehler, Program Manager. Kathryn Woehler became an LVN in 1974 and worked in a variety of clinical settings until receiving her BSN in 1989. At that time she became a Public Health Nursing Supervisor for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District. Her experience there consisted of research and development of special immunization initiatives as well as community organization. She received her MPH from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health in May 1993. Kathryn came to the Texas Department of Health in January 1994 as the PHR 8 Public Health Promotion Manager. In this position she continued her focus on community and constituency development. As a recent contributing author to the new TDH draft manual on building community coalitions, she brings networking and coalition development skills to her position as CRD Program Manager of PHR's 8 and 11.

UPDATE YOUR CANCER REPORTING



WITH SANDCRAB Lite

SANDCRAB Lite, a Texas Cancer Registry abstract reporting software, has been developed to meet the new state reporting requirements. This software should make cancer reporting faster and eliminates the need to complete paper abstract forms.

Cancer abstract information is entered using the Abstract Entry Add function in SANDCRAB Lite. Numerous edit checks in the program ensure data integrity. One of the features in the Add function is the Selection Pop-up Box.

The pop-up box will display all the valid input codes for a field and will automatically add a selected input to the screen field. Other Abstract Entry functions are Search, Print, Edit, Delete, Display Previous and Display Next. The "Report to State" option will copy all files that need to be submitted to the TCR to a diskette.

```

10:37:42 am
-----
TEXAS CANCER REGISTRY
-----
FIDELIAL CANCER REPORTING FORM
-----
11 Male | Occupation and Industry | <Edit>
12 Female |ber |
13 Other (Hermaphrodite) |ution Number |
14 Transsexual |g Source |
19 Unknown |rd No. | Occupation
| of Admission | Industry
NAME: Last Suff First I | 1 Sequence Number
JONES | JILL | | Other primary tumors | <Edit>
Maiden | Alias | (Site, Morphology, and date)
-----
Street Address
111 First St
City | State | Other Pertinent Information | <Edit>
AUSTIN | TX
78704- | Zip 453 Fips county code
555-55-5555 Social Security Number
08101955 (MMDDCCYY) Date of Birth | For CRD use only | <Edit>
01 Race
0 Spanish/Hispanic Origin
Sex
-----
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
<Srch > <Print> <Prev > <Next > < Add > <Edit > < Del > *Exit *Save * <Abort>
Sandcrab Lite Abstract Entry Selection Pop-up Box for Sex field
    
```

The hardware requirements to run SANDCRAB Lite are: a personal computer with a 386 processor or higher, 4 MB RAM, and a 1.44 MB 3.5" floppy disk drive.

In early August, surveys were mailed to all non-electronic cancer reporters to determine each reporter's computer capabilities and interest in using SANDCRAB Lite. Those institutions who have returned the survey and have a computer meeting the system requirements should begin to receive the software free of charge in October. If you have not received the survey or would like more information about this new software, please contact Ms. Madelyn Ng, System Support Specialist, at (512) 502-0680 or (800) 252-8059.

Attention Contract Abstractors

The TCR frequently gets requests from hospitals for contract abstractors. To assist hospitals with these requests, we have decided to maintain a listing of anyone who indicates an interest in providing these services. This listing will clearly state that inclusion on this list in no way suggests an endorsement by the TCR of the persons listed or is an attestation to contractor qualifications or expertise. We will recommend that prospective employers obtain their own references. All agreements will be the responsibility of the hospital and the contractors. A sign-up sheet for inclusion on this list will be available at the TxTRA meeting in San Antonio in October, or you can send the information directly to Ms. Jane Yoakum in the Austin office at Texas Cancer Registry, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756. Information needed will include your name and credentials, and the address and phone number at which you would like to be contacted. The Registry will also need to know in what area you are interested in providing services, ie; a city/cities, county or the entire state. This listing will be updated quarterly and provided on request.

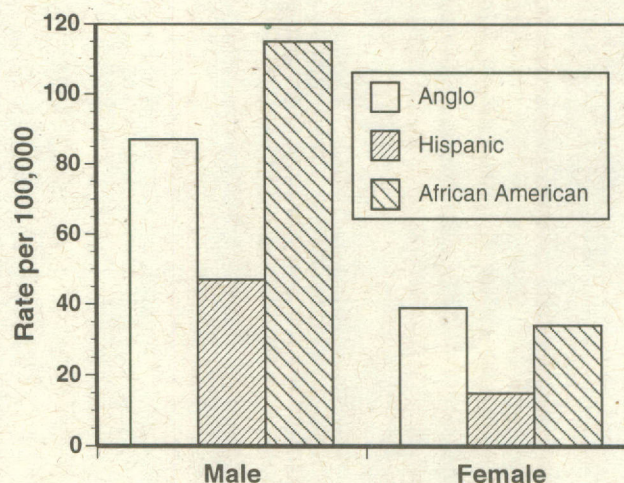
1995 Cases

REMINDER: 1995 cases are required to be reported within 6 months of diagnosis. The TCR should be receiving submissions on cases diagnosed in January, February and March of this year. Please contact the central office or your regional office if this deadline cannot be met.

STATBITE

The Statbite this month, adapted from the "Impact" report, shows the incidence of lung cancer in Texas by sex and ethnicity. In 1985 through 1991, incidence rates for lung cancer in Texas were highest in African American males, and lowest in both male and female Hispanics.

David Risser
Epidemiologist



* Average annual age-adjusted rates for five regions that had complete cancer incidence reporting.

News from the Regions—



GREETINGS FROM LUBBOCK— PUBLIC HEALTH REGIONS 1, 9 AND 10

The Lubbock office has been very busy this past quarter. Ms. Shelley Jordan was promoted to Regional Trainer/Data Coordinator. Ms. Karen Favers, a recent medical record technology graduate from South Plains College, was hired to replace Shelley as the Field Record Analyst. Focus group meetings were held in Odessa and Lubbock. Cancer Reporting Training sessions were held in Amarillo and Odessa. Pat attended the National Cancer Registrars Association annual meeting in Miami. The entire staff attended FTRO classes and the Texas Cancer Registry Annual Conference held in Austin.

Quality assurance activities for 1991 data were completed in PHR's 1 and 10; this data are included in the publication of the new Impact of Cancer on Texas. Quality assurance activities at different levels are currently underway to complete 1992, 1993, and 1994 data in PHR's 1, 9 and 10. In addition, focus group meetings are being planned in all three regions later in October.

If registry staff have not visited with you as of yet, look for us to contact you very soon. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 806/744-3577.

Pat Ploegsma, RRA
Program Manager

THE LATEST FROM ARLINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH REGIONS 2, 3 & 4

Staffing is now complete at the regional office in the Cancer Registry Program for PHR's 2, 3 and 4 in Arlington. On board is Cindy Bolton, R.N., Program Manager; Teherah Soltani-Duncan, Field Supervisor; Carol Sorich, Loretta Carter, Berta Hernandez, Regional Trainers and Data Coordinators; and Della Millican, Field Record Analyst. We are all looking forward to working together in the Texas Cancer Registry, as well as meeting and working with all of you. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We can be reached at the Texas Cancer Registry, Texas Department of Health, 2561 Matlock Rd., Arlington, TX 76015-1621. Our phone number is (817) 460-1558.

Cindy Bolton
Program Manager

HOOP IT UP FOR HOUSTON PUBLIC HEALTH REGIONS 5 & 6

Houston has two winning teams; the Rockets and the new Cancer Registry staff. Marie Longoria, Field Records Analyst and Judy Spong, Program Manager were hired this summer and there are plans to add other staff this fall. We are looking forward to being up and running in the near future and to meeting with many of you. If you have any questions, our current address is the Texas Cancer Registry, Texas Department of Health, 10500 Forum Place, Houston, Texas 77036 and our phone number is (713) 995-1112. However, we are anticipating a move in October to our new offices at 5425 Polk Avenue, Houston, 77023. An announcement of the new address and phone number will be mailed at the time of the move.

Judy Spong
Program Manager

"SALUDOS" DE SAN ANTONIO



Adios and good luck to Aftab Hashim and Cynthia Bermea. Aftab, former Program Manager, has accepted a TDH promotion to Director of Programs in the Houston regional offices and Cindi, former Field Records Analyst, has accepted a medical records position at a local regional hospital. We thank both Aftab and Cindi for all of the hard work and wish them success in their new endeavors. We also welcome Daphne Peaker as the new Senior Quality Control Auditor. Daphne's eagerness to learn will nicely compliment the San Antonio team. Both Daphne and Michelle have been attending the FTRO classes over the summer and attended the TCR Annual Conference in August.

Data for the years 1990-1992 are being finalized for the Border Health Study, and a report will be available in the near future. Thanks to the PHR 8 and 11's hospitals for maintaining compliance and providing assistance in the Border Health casefinding and reabstracting studies.

DATA USES



The Texas Cancer Registry contributed reports on cancer incidence in Texas for inclusion in the Impact of Cancer on Texas, a publication produced jointly by the Texas Department of Health and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; the American Cancer Society and the Texas Cancer Council. In addition, TCR staff made several data presentations at the TCR Annual Conference. During the last four months, the TCR has initiated 16 cancer cluster investigations, and has closed 17 cluster investigations.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION: A patient diagnosed in 1993 with colon carcinoma, now presents with metastasis to the lung and liver. Is this reportable if the original primary was not diagnosed in my hospital?

ANSWER: Yes. The key words to remember are "active disease". A patient who has active cancer when they were in your hospital, regardless of where it was diagnosed, is reportable to the TCR.

Furthermore, if the case you are reporting is a metastatic site from an earlier diagnosed primary, be sure to indicate under "final diagnosis" the primary site (organ of origin) and not the metastatic site. Metastatic sites should only be documented under "staging information".

QUESTION: When recording staging information, is it necessary to record all findings?

ANSWER: Staging is a very important element in data collection. We code this field based on what information you record. Although it is important to document a clear, concise picture of the patient's extent of disease in order for the TCR to accurately assign a code, it is not important to record all the information. Keep in mind negative findings are just as important as positive findings. **EXAMPLE:** A patient with colon cancer might have the following workup:

CT ABDOMEN revealed apple core lesion obstructing the sigmoid colon; extensive liver and periaortic lymph node metastasis. Granuloma in the right lower lung base. BARIUM ENEMA revealed obstructing lesion at the sigmoid colon; diverticulosis of the transverse colon. CT BRAIN showed no evidence of metastatic disease.

The above could be documented as follows: CT ABD-sigm colon les w/ liver & periaortic lymph node mets. BE-obst les @ sigm colon. CT BRAIN-neg.

QUESTION: What is the sequence number, position 285-286 on the "Confidential Cancer Incidence Reporting Form"?

ANSWER: The sequence number is simply the chronological sequence of this reportable neoplasm in the patient's lifetime. This differs from the tumor record number in that the tumor record number is only for reportable neoplasms seen at your facility and is assigned by the TCR for non-tumor registry hospitals. **EXAMPLE:** Patient's history is as follows: breast cancer 1950, squamous cell carcinoma of the right arm October 1974, colon cancer 1989 and glioblastoma June 12, 1994. Sequence numbers would be documented as follows:

- 01 - Breast, 1950
- 02 - Skin, 10/1974 *
- 03 - Colon, 1989
- 04 - Glioblastoma, 6/12/1994

*Even though skin carcinoma is not reportable to the TCR, it is to be considered when assigning sequence numbers.

QUESTION: If a patient has bilateral breast cancer, is that one or two primaries?

ANSWER: Unless it is stated by the primary care physician that one is metastatic from the other, it should be considered two primaries (and two reporting forms should be completed).