



Department of
Health

January 2025

OCISS Quarterly Newsletter

Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System

OCISS Updates

Counting Veterans' Cancer Act

On March 8, 2024, as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, President Biden signed into law a new collaboration to strengthen State Cancer Registries' abilities to include cancer data from Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Facilities. This action will ensure veterans' cancer cases are fully accounted for in national cancer surveillance.

In November 2024, OCISS staff met with the Oncology Data Program Manager for the Veterans Health Administration to determine the specifics of how Ohio veterans' cancer cases will be submitted to OCISS. We have since received 40,636 cancer cases from the VA, dating from 1996-2022!

OCISS Advisory Committee

A meeting of the OCISS Advisory Committee was held Dec. 5, 2024.

OCISS staff shared updates on reporting timeliness and solicited input on a recognition program for facilities submitting timely data. Information about the Five-Year Rule Review of the OCISS rules in Ohio Administrative Code was shared. Input was sought on revisions to these rules. In addition, a demonstration of how to access OCISS data using the report builders available on the [Data Ohio Portal](#) was provided. The OCISS Advisory Committee was established in 2021 to provide review, discussion, and input on a wide range of topics to OCISS. Its membership includes cancer reporters, local health department representatives, and researchers.

Annual Call for Data

In early November, OCISS submitted its annual data for cancers diagnosed from 1996-2023 to both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR). A total of 1,919,033 records were submitted for diagnosis years 1996-2023. Several indicators show improvement in the timeliness of reporting for cancers diagnosed in 2023. We will receive confirmation from NPCR and NAACCR in the spring. Thank you for your efforts to submit complete and timely data to OCISS!

Unknown Race and Unknown Stage

Thank you to everyone who reviewed and updated unknown race and unknown stage for diagnosis year 2022. Because of your review we were able to update unknown race to a known race for more than 300 cases and update unknown stage to a known stage for more than 250 cases. Thank you all for your review and follow-up!

Awareness Months



January

*Cervical Cancer
Awareness Month*



February

*Gallbladder and
Bile Duct Cancer
Awareness Month*

Managing Physician's List in Web Plus

For those that abstract in Web Plus, you may not see the managing physician listed in the look up for the managing physician field. OCISS can add physicians to the lookup. To add a physician to the look up, please send the provider's first and last name, practicing street address (number, street, city, state, zip code), and the Ohio license number to Kaitlin Kruger at Kaitlin.Kruger@odh.ohio.gov. Please note that the provider's license number is different from their National Provider Identifier (NPI) number; license numbers can be found on this [page](#).

Hospital Quality Reports

OCISS has generated data quality reports for each reporting hospital to review the completeness, quality and timeliness of hospital data. These reports have been shared with the primary hospital contacts to use as a resource and to provide a summary of their reporting. We encourage you to share your hospital's report with your registry staff and/or your hospital administration as you see fit. For additional information on your hospital's reporting, please contact Kaitlin Kruger (Kaitlin.Kruger@odh.ohio.gov). We appreciate the work you and your staff do each day. OCISS could not do what we do without all of you!

Timeliness of Data Submission

To ensure timely and complete cancer case reporting in Ohio, OCISS staff routinely monitor submissions of case reports from facilities. If submissions are not received in a complete and timely manner, the facility may be contacted by OCISS staff. Below is a Timely Reporting Calendar to assist in outlining your reporting requirements:

Month of Diagnosis or First Date of Contact at Your Facility:	Report to OCISS No Later Than:
January (1)	July (7)
February (2)	August (8)
March (3)	September (9)
April (4)	October (10)
May (5)	November (11)
June (6)	December (12)
July (7)	January following year (1)
August (8)	February following year (2)
September (9)	March following year (3)
October (10)	April following year (4)
November (11)	May following year (5)
December (12)	June following year (6)

If information is limited to a description, use the following:

Descriptive Term Used for First Contact at Your Facility:	Report to OCISS No Later Than:
Winter	August
Spring	November
Summer	February
Fall	March

Looking Ahead to 2025

There will be additional system upgrades in 2025 to comply with NAACCR v25 standards. Please keep in mind we will not be able to accept any 2025 cases or v25 XML files until Web Plus is updated to accommodate the changes. OCISS will be working on our v25 materials and will stay connected with hospital software vendors during this process. We will notify reporters of any major reporting changes and will keep everyone posted on our timeline for completing the update. For more information on NAACCR v25, please visit <https://www.naaccr.org/implementation-guidelines/>.

Fundamental Learning Collaborative for the Cancer Surveillance Community (FLccSC)

The FLccSC learning portal is currently offline and has been unavailable for several months. The Florida Cancer Data System, which hosts FLccSC, is working diligently to resolve the issue and is attempting to restore service as quickly as possible. We do not have an estimated date for when it will be back online but will continue to monitor the situation. All NAACCR monthly webinars can also be accessed through WebPlus.

OCISS Staff Presentation at 2024 Ohio Cancer Registrar Association Annual Education Conference

Emily Bunt, Registry Manager, and Emily Stewart, Operations Supervisor, gave a joint presentation at the Ohio Cancer Registrar Association (OCRA) Annual Education Conference held in West Chester, Ohio from Sept. 19-20, 2024. They provided an overview of OCISS and what happens to cancer reports once they are submitted to OCISS, reporting requirements, updates to staff, software and timeliness of reporting, common mistakes in reporting and how to fix them, along with educational resources offered by OCISS. We appreciate the invitation to present and the opportunity to provide educational resources to our local cancer registry community!

A few of the key takeaways from the OCRA meeting include the fact that hospital cancer registry data is critically important to have complete and accurate cancer surveillance data. Changes are coming, not just to reporting standards, but also through implementation of more advanced technology (e.g. natural language processing) in the cancer surveillance community. New technology can never replace the work of cancer registrars, rather it will hopefully make tasks easier and more efficient. Cancer registrars are always encouraged to “phone a friend” when they are abstracting or working on projects as collaboration is key for what we do.

New Cancer Publications

Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has recently posted new reports to the [OCISS Data and Statistics page](#).

Child and Adolescent Cancer in Ohio 2024:

This report provides a summary of cancer in Ohio among those 0-19 years old, including data by sex, age group, race, ethnicity, type, and region. The report also includes trends for all cancers combined and for the leading cancers among children and adolescents, survival and prevalence statistics, and information on clinical trials, risk factors, signs and symptoms, and late effects. It can be found under the Ohio Cancer Profiles tab. A new one-page fact sheet is also available under the Ohio Cancer Stats and Facts tab.

New Site-Specific Cancer Profiles:

Each report provides detailed information about a specific type of cancer, with Ohio-specific information on cancer incidence and mortality (by age group, sex, and race), trends, histology, survival, risk factors, and signs and symptoms. The new profiles include:

- **Oral Cavity and Pharynx Cancer in Ohio 2024.**
- **Ovarian Cancer in Ohio 2024.**
- **Pancreatic Cancer in Ohio 2024.**

They can be found under the Site-Specific Cancer Profiles tab on the OCISS Data and Statistics page.



Emily Bunt, left | Emily Stewart, right

OCISS Data Use by Researchers

OCISS data are requested by many researchers each year. To obtain access, researchers must submit an application to the ODH Institutional Review Board (IRB). The ODH IRB is a group of individuals from various State of Ohio agencies who review any research involving human subjects that uses any State of Ohio data. This information can be found at <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/explore-data-and-stats/institutional-review-board>.

Since the last OCISS newsletter, there have been two new IRB-approved studies using OCISS data.

- **New York University (NYU) Food and Microbiome Longitudinal Investigation (FAMiLI).** The Primary Investigator (PI) is Jiyoung Ahn, PhD, from the NYU Grossman School of Medicine. The purpose of this study is to evaluate associations of oral and gut microbiome profiles to the presence and future development of colorectal adenomas and cancer, as well as other diseases including but not limited to heart disease, diabetes, and other cancers. After initial collection of biological samples, the researchers now want to link their cohort to cancer registries to verify self-reported cancer cases and to find any additional cancers in their cohort. They requested data from a total of 32 central cancer registries, including Ohio.
- **Cancer Incidence and Mortality among Active Duty (AD) Department of Air Force (DAF), 1 January 1976 - 31 December 2021 .** The PI is Keith T. Beam, MD, MPH, FACP from the United States Air Force (USAF) School of Aerospace Medicine, Epidemiology Consult Service Division. This study seeks to determine if AD DAF personnel working in missile support career fields have a different risk of cancers compared to other DAF members and to the general U.S. population. They requested data from 45 central registries in the U.S., including Ohio.



Cancer Registrar Training & Education

Below are some important, upcoming conferences and training events.

National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) Continuing Education (CE) Requirement Changes for Certified Registrars

The NCRA has made changes to the continuing education requirements for certified oncology data specialists. Beginning in 2025, the Continuing Education In Person (CEIP) activity will require Oncology Data Specialist (ODS)-certified professionals to earn a minimum of eight CE credits of in-person education over four years. The eight CEIP credits are included in the standard 20 CE credits and can be earned across two separate two-year CE cycles in a four-year window.

Eligible CEIP education must be NCRA Program Recognition approved and can be satisfied with in-person continuing education delivered at a national, regional, state or local educational event. This requirement is currently only applicable to those certified registrars living in the United States. There are exemptions that can be granted to waive this requirement, please see the [NCRA website](#) for further information.

NAACCR V25 Updates: Solid Tumor Rules, SSDIs, and More!

Dec. 13, 2024; 1:30 p.m.

This presentation discussed v25 updates. Jim Hofferkamp reviewed the v25 Implementation Guidelines and the NAACCR References Page. Lois Dicke discussed changes to the Solid Tumor Manual and Jennifer Ruhl discussed updates to SSDIs and Grade. A recording of the presentation is available [here](#).

Spring 2025 NAACCR ODS Exam Prep and Review

Weekly from Jan. 28, 2025 – March 18, 2025 | Virtual Training

This eight-week course is carefully designed by experienced instructors to help participants succeed on the ODS Exam. Each week, a different topic will be covered related to the exam, with sessions including lectures on exam-related topics, quizzes, reading assignments, discussion board and a timed practice exam during the final session.

For more information or to register, visit the NAACCR site [here](#).

2025 American College of Surgeons (ACS) Cancer Conference

March 12-14, 2025 | Phoenix, AZ

This conference is for all members of the multidisciplinary care team at healthcare facilities that treat patients with cancer, including but not limited to: Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), Cancer Program Administrators, Breast Program Directors and Leadership Committee Members, Rectal Cancer Program Directors, Coordinators and Multidisciplinary Team Members, Cancer Committee Chairs and Members, Physicians, State Chairs, Quality Improvement Professionals, Physician Assistants, Advanced Practice Providers, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Genetic Counselors, Navigators, Nurses, and Certified Oncology Data Specialists.

Continuing Medical Education credits for physicians, Continuing Nursing Education credits for nurses, and Continuing Education credits for Certified Oncology Data Specialists will be available. More information and registration can be found [here](#).

2025 NCRA Annual Educational Conference

May 3-6, 2025 | This is a hybrid event welcoming both in-person and virtual conference attendees.

The National Cancer Registrars Association will hold its 51st Annual Educational Conference at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld®. Attendees will have the opportunity to earn 20+ CEs needed to maintain the ODS credential; American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) CEUs will be submitted for approval. For more information, resources and registration, please visit the [NCRA website](#).

NAACCR 2025 Annual Conference

June 3-5, 2025 | Hartford, CT

The NAACCR 2025 Annual Conference will allow attendees to share ideas and learn from national experts in cancer surveillance, cancer registry operations, and cancer research. Sessions will explore emerging topics in cancer surveillance from multiple perspectives in North America. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

Ohio Cancer Registrars Association 55th Annual Educational Conference

Sept. 25-26, 2025 | Fairborn, OH

The OCRA Annual Meetings are held on a rotating schedule, traveling around to all of our state regional association homes over the course of six years. The 2025 meeting will be hosted by the Miami Valley Cancer Registrars Association; the agenda will be shared at a later date.

Special NCRA Offer for Non-Credentialed Cancer Registrars Working in a Commission on Cancer (CoC)-Accredited Hospital

Virtual training

Non-ODS credentialed staff who join NCRA as a new Associate Member may be eligible for a special complimentary package of education. This training is for non-ODS credentialed cancer registry staff who work in CoC-accredited facilities and need training to address CoC Standard 4.3. NCRA has developed special training for this staffing cohort. The special training package includes three free hours of education on casefinding, follow-up, and advances in cancer diagnosis and treatment. New Associate Members who successfully complete the training will receive a formal Certificate of Completion to document the three hours of cancer-related training. This special offer is for non-ODS credentialed cancer registry staff only. More information and registration can be found on the NCRA's Center for [Cancer Registry Education website](#).

NAACCR Webinar Offerings

NAACCR hosts monthly webinars that provide three continuing education credits approved by NCRA. OCISS makes these available free for cancer reporters via Web Plus and the Fundamental Learning Collaborative for the Cancer Surveillance Community (FLccSC) platform. For Web Plus access, contact Kaitlin Kruger (Kaitlin.Kruger@odh.ohio.gov, 614-728-2304). At this time, it is unknown when the FLccSC platform will be functional again, so registrars are encouraged to utilize Web Plus to take advantage of these free educational opportunities.

The following NAACCR webinars were recorded live in the month stated, and the link to the recording and the CE quiz are both available on the WebPlus home page.

- July 2024: Life in a CoC Accredited Facility in 2024 with co-hosts Jennie Jones and Kim Rodriguez.
- August 2024: Central Nervous System 2024 with co-hosts Carol Kruchko and Jennifer Ruhl.
- September 2024: Coding Pitfalls 2024 with co-host Janet Vogel.
- October 2024: Larynx and Base of Tongue with co-host Wilson Apollo.
- November 2024: Bladder 2024 with co-host Denise Harrison.
- December 2024: Hematopoietic 2024/2025 Part 1 with co-host Juliet Wilkins.

Professional Membership/Involvement Opportunities

National Cancer Registrars Association

The NCRA represents over 7,000 cancer registry professionals. Its mission is to serve as the premier education, credentialing, and advocacy resource for cancer data professionals. NCRA membership renewal is underway, with current membership expiring December 31, 2024. New members may join at any time, see the [NCRA website](#) for more information and pricing.

Ohio Cancer Registrars Association

The Ohio Cancer Registrars Association (OCRA) is a non-profit professional association which provides leadership dedicated to excellence in the management of cancer data through education, communication and membership participation. There are over 150 professionals that contribute to this organization annually by joining as members.

The OCRA Annual membership drive kicked off Dec. 1, 2024. Visit the [OCRA website](#) to learn more about membership levels and benefits.

OCISS Abstracting Tips

Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasms

Scenario: A patient had a bone marrow biopsy where the pathology report read “the differential diagnoses include, but are not limited to, mantle cell lymphoma, atypical chronic lymphocytic/small lymphocytic lymphoma and a variant of marginal zone lymphoma.”

Question: Is this case reportable?

Answer: In the Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Neoplasm Coding Manual, November 2024 update, assign code 1 (positive histology) which includes provisional diagnosis and/or several provisional (differential) diagnoses which may or may not be preceded by approved ambiguous terminology. Code this as 9591/3, B-cell lymphoma, NOS. All the diagnoses listed in the pathology report are B-cell lymphomas, however the pathologist has not yet determined the subtype. If at a later time a specific lymphoma is determined, the histology code can be updated accordingly.

Reference:
SEER Inquiry System – [Question 20230055](#)

Prostate Cases and Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) Level

Scenario: A patient had serial PSA draws for symptom monitoring. The patient had the following:

- 7/10/2022: PSA=7.6 ng/ml
- 2/20/2023: PSA=18.0 ng/ml
- 4/1/2023: PSA=16.3 ng/ml
- 5/1/2023: Digital Rectal Exam (DRE) positive for bilateral palpable nodularity
- 5/10/2023: Biopsy positive for adenocarcinoma

Question: What PSA level should be coded for NAACCR data item 3920, PSA Lab Value?

Answer: 16.3 ng/ml, which is the final pre-diagnosis PSA lab value immediately prior to diagnostic biopsy of prostate and prior to initiation of treatment.

Reference: Site-Specific Data Item (SSDI) Manual, Version 3.1, published October 2023. This coding directive is a change from CSv2, where instructions stated to code the highest PSA value within 3 months prior to diagnostic biopsy.

Note 1: Serum PSA is not the same as free PSA or precursor PSA; do not record values from free PSA or precursor PSA lab values. Alternate names for Serum PSA include prostate specific antigen or total PSA.

Note 2: A lab value expressed in micrograms per liter (ug/L) is the equivalent to the same value expressed in nanograms per milliliter (ng/ml.).

Abbreviations in the Abstract:

Even in the age of computerized abstracts with coded fields, text is still a vitally important required field to supplement and support coded information. Due to time and record space constraints, registrars rely on abbreviations. Abbreviations can generate confusion as they may vary among different institutions and different specialties. Because abbreviations should be understood by any reader, only those that are clear and precise should be used. NAACCR publishes recommended abbreviations for abstractors, consisting of over 600 words/terms and their recommended abbreviations or symbols, as well as a special table of context-sensitive abbreviations. The meaning of context-sensitive abbreviations should be readily apparent from the context in which it is used. Find the recommendations and context-sensitive abbreviations [here](#).

Examples of context-sensitive abbreviations:

- **BM:** black male, bone marrow, bowel movement.
- **BT:** bladder tumor, brain tumor.
- **NR:** not recorded, not reportable.
- **RT:** radiation therapy, right.
- **CA:** calcium, carcinoma.

OCISS Contact Information		
OCISS Staff:	Contact for Questions on:	Contact Information:
Jamie Fike	Esophagus, Stomach, Trachea, Lung	Jamie.Fike@odh.ohio.gov
Rebecca Levings, <i>RHIT</i>	Small Intestine, Colorectal, Anus, Liver, Intra- & Extrahepatic Bile Ducts, Gallbladder, Thyroid & Pituitary Glands, Other Endocrine Glands, Other Ill-Defined Sites, Unknown Primary Site	Rebecca.Levings@odh.ohio.gov
Bill Ruisinger, <i>ODS</i>	Lip, Oral Cavity, Pharynx, Hematopoietic & Reticuloendothelial Systems, Peripheral Nerves & Autonomic Nervous System, Renal Pelvis, Ureter, Bladder, Other Unspecified Urinary Organs, Eye, Lymph Nodes	William.Ruisinger@odh.ohio.gov
Sheri Stuckey	Breast	Sheri.Stuckey@odh.ohio.gov
Cyndi Worden	Pancreas, Nasal Cavity, Accessory Sinuses, Retroperitoneum & Peritoneal Tissue, Connective Tissue, Female Genital & Reproductive Organs, Kidney	Cynthia.Worden@odh.ohio.gov
Angela Huff-Allen, <i>CCS</i>	Larynx, Thymus, Heart, Bones, Prostate, Male Genital & Reproductive Organs, Meninges, Brain & CNS, Adrenal Gland	Angela.Huff-Allen@odh.ohio.gov
Sarah Davis	Skin	Sarah.Davis@odh.ohio.gov
Stephanie Haders, <i>RHIT</i>	Primary site to be determined.	Stephanie.Haders@odh.ohio.gov
Roberta Slocumb	Data Requests	Roberta.Slocumb@odh.ohio.gov 614-995-5972
Kaitlin Kruger	Web Plus Access, Password Resets	Kaitlin.Kruger@odh.ohio.gov 614-728-2304
Emily Stewart, <i>ODS</i>	Cancer Reporting, Education & Training	Emily.Stewart@odh.ohio.gov 380-218-2242
Emily Bunt	General Registry Questions	Emily.Bunt@odh.ohio.gov 614-995-5433
OCISS	General Information	OCISS@odh.ohio.gov 614-752-2689