How can I get more information about SEER?

Contact us at:

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Questions or comments about SEER*Stat:

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Questions or comments about the SEER website and materials:

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National Cancer Institute

SEER

Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results

SEER, a program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), provides information on cancer statistics to help reduce the burden of cancer on the U.S. population.

http://seer.cancer.gov

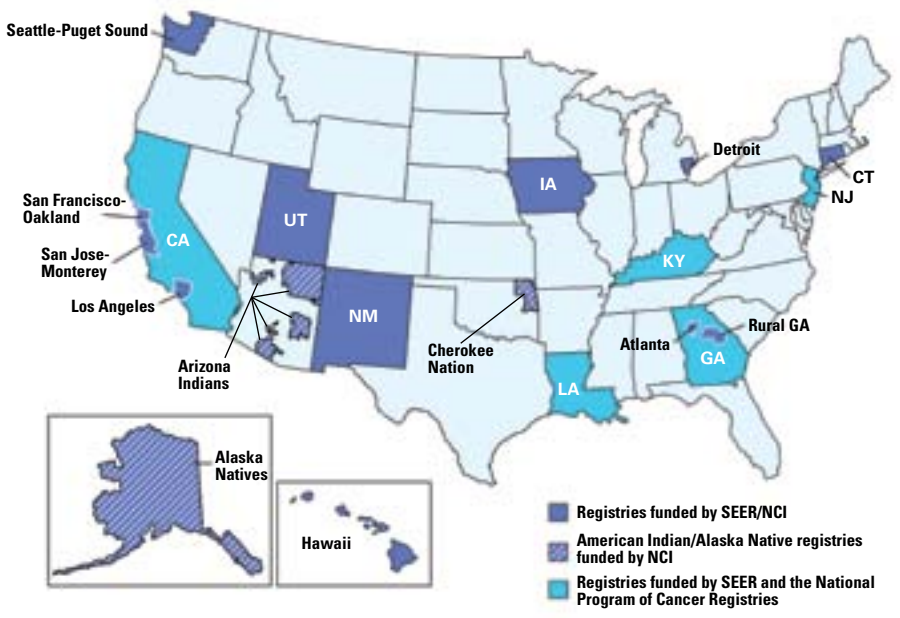
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes of Health

What is SEER?

SEER is a coordinated system of cancer registries strategically located across the United States. These registries routinely collect data on:

- Patient demographics
- Primary tumor site
- Specific cancer markers (e.g., estrogen receptor status; progesterone receptor status; human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, also known as proto-oncogene Neu (HER2/neu) breast cancer)
- Cancer stage at diagnosis
- First course of treatment
- Patient survival

The SEER Program, funded by NCI since 1973 as a result of the National Cancer Act of 1971, collects these data on every case of cancer reported from 20 U.S. geographic areas. These areas (shown below) cover about 28% of the U.S. population and are representative of the demographics of the entire U.S. population.



Who uses SEER data, and what do they use the data for?

SEER data are used by thousands of researchers, clinicians, cancer registrars, public health officials, legislators, policymakers, community groups, and members of the public to:

- Evaluate cancer prevention and screening programs and the quality of cancer care
- Document racial and gender disparities
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of public health interventions
- Guide the translation of research into health policy and practice

To maintain the integrity of the data and results based on the data, SEER registries evaluate and, when necessary, improve the quality of the data.

How do SEER registries maintain data quality?

SEER's Quality Improvement (QI) team consists of staff from NCI, staff from each of the SEER registries, and external contractors. This team works to:

- Standardize medical coding and summary writing by cancer registrars, individuals who collect and code cancer patient data
- Educate and train cancer registrars
- Evaluate the consistency and accuracy of coding by cancer registrars
- Prepare databases (e.g., SEER*Rx, an interactive anticancer drug database) and documents that describe coding rules

How are SEER data disseminated?

Online Cancer Statistics	Data Analysis Tools	Reports	Studies	Databases and Linkages to Other Data
Cancer Stat Fact Sheets: statistical summaries for common cancer types **Fast Stats:** interactive tool for creating tables and graphs of cancer statistics for major cancer sites by age, sex, race, and time period **Cancer Query Systems:** similar to Fast Stats but provides more flexibility and a larger set of cancer statistics **State Cancer Profiles:** dynamic maps and graphs that help guide and prioritize cancer control activities	**SEER*Stat:** software used to analyze SEER data **Joinpoint:** software used to analyze trends in data **DevCan:** software used to calculate lifetime risks of getting or dying from cancer **HD*Calc:** software that generates summary measures for evaluating and monitoring health disparities **+ Others**	**SEER Cancer Statistics Review (CSR):** a searchable online report with tables showing cancer statistics by race, sex, age, and year of diagnosis **Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer:** an annual update on U.S. cancer occurrence and trends **United States Cancer Statistics:** state-specific cancer incidence and mortality data	**Rapid Response Surveillance Studies (RRSS):** studies that address issues in cancer control and prevention by collecting biological materials and/or information via surveys, interviews, and medical record reviews **Patterns of care studies (part of RRSS):** studies that evaluate the use of state-of-the-art cancer therapy in community practice **Investigator-initiated studies**	**SEER-Medicare Database:** links SEER data and Medicare enrollment and claims files; used for cancer control studies **SEER-Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (MHOS) Database:** provides detailed information on elderly persons with cancer **National Longitudinal Mortality Study (NLMS) & Linked SEER-NLMS Databases:** enable studies that investigate relationships between socioeconomic status and cancer burden

Links to these resources are available at http://seer.cancer.gov.