



NCI/NAACCR Cancer Reporting Zone Project

Request for Information



Return to Zaria Tatalovich (tatalovichzp@mail.nih.gov)

The NCI SEER Program is collaborating with NAACCR to develop a set of cancer reporting zones across the U.S. that are more suitable for cancer data reporting than counties. In each respective state, the zones will be custom crafted to represent areas that:

- 1) are meaningful to stakeholders in terms of cancer reporting and cancer interventions;
- 2) comprise adjacent census tracts and smaller counties (or portions of counties) that sum to population sizes that are sufficiently large to support stable rates;
- 3) collectively cover the entire population of the state;
- 4) are homogeneous with respect to important socio-demographic characteristics and are compact in shape;
- 5) have large enough case counts for data reporting, without compromising confidentiality; and result in a relatively small proportion of areas with suppressed values, although for rarer cancer sites suppression will be inevitable especially when producing rates stratified by sex and/or race.

A pilot study using cancer data from several cancer registries has been completed and the resulting zones satisfied the predefined criteria. These zones subdivide large population urban counties and are collections of smaller counties (or portions of counties) and have a minimum population size of 50,000. Our goal is to expand these “cancer-centric” zones to other registries and work with our cancer surveillance partners to release cancer statistics, and other socio-demographic factors relevant to understanding the cancer burden and identifying areas in need of interventions.

If your state is interested in participating, please fill-out and submit this information form.

Registry / state: _____

Primary contact name: _____

Primary contact email: _____

Expectations of each registry:

- Provide a point-of-contact, attend kickoff meeting
- Act as a liaison with key cancer reporting stakeholders in the state
- Provide info about relevant existing geographic areas
- Review alternative zone solutions
- Assist with developing useful names for zones
- Help work through options for zone deployment at a national level

We estimate that the zone design process will take about 2-3 hours of total staff time per week for about three months.

1. Please tell us about the availability of tract-level geocodes for records in your registry.

Are records routinely geocoded with a 2010 census tract IDs?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If no, please describe your geocoding process (e.g., geocoding done at data submission time, geocoding done for special data requests, we do not record census tract IDs, etc.)

2. Are there existing sub-county geographic areas that are groups of census tracts and that might be candidates for including in the zone design considerations?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

For example, Los Angeles County is divided into eight [Service Planning Areas \(SPAs\)](#) for healthcare planning and provision of healthcare services. Although California opted not to use them, zones in Los Angeles County could have been designed to not cross SPA boundaries.

If yes, please describe:

3. Are there existing geographic areas that are groups of counties and that might be candidates for including in the zone design considerations?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

For example, Louisiana has nine Health Regions that are collections of parishes (equivalent to counties). Louisiana zones have been designed so that the zones that aggregate the smaller Louisiana parishes do not cross Health Region boundaries.

If yes, please describe:

4. Are there any legislative or policy restrictions on release of cancer rates for geographic areas within the state? Any legislative or policy requirements for sub-county reporting?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If yes, please describe:

5. For our zone design project, we have been assuming that case counts of less than 16 cases would be suppressed. Does your registry use different suppression rules?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If yes, please describe:

6. In addition to the primary contact above, please list email addresses for any other registry staff to include on communications about the project:

Name	Email
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Any other comments, special challenges, or scheduling considerations that we should be aware of?