

2025 Cancer data inventory

A resource for researchers and health professionals

Impact Evaluation Core

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

What is this inventory?

There are many publicly available sources of data that can be used to understand the burden of cancer and cancer-related behavioral risk factors; however, the applications and limitations of these data can be challenging to discern. The Cancer Prevention and Control Platform at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, in collaboration with the Impact Evaluation Core developed this data inventory to be a resource to help public health professionals, researchers, policymakers and members of the public who wish to better understand the health-related needs and situations of a given population, particularly as it relates to cancer in the state of Texas.

While not exhaustive, the data sources included in this inventory are ones that are commonly used by the Impact Evaluation Core to describe, contextualize and assess the burden of cancer in Texas and the behavioral risk factors related to cancer, as well as other health behaviors. The data sources focus on cancer indicators, outcomes and related health risk behaviors and represent some of the more common state and federal sources, including state and federal surveillance systems and registries. Due to the geographic focus of MD Anderson Cancer Center, this inventory focuses on data sources relevant to Texas and the Houston area in particular.

How do I use this inventory?

The table of contents lists all the data sources and related health dashboards to help navigate to a particular source. The inventory provides a brief description of each data source and provides a link to the data source, outlines the frequency of data collection, the types of data collected, including demographics, and the geographic region covered. The end of this document lists and links relevant online, interactive dashboards that draw upon the data sources included in the inventory, as well as links to recent publications that have used the data sources, where appropriate. This document will be updated on a biennial basis by the Impact Evaluation Core within the Cancer Prevention and Control Platform MD Anderson.

How do I get assistance using this inventory or the data sources included?

The Impact Evaluation Core aims to assess the impact of initiatives in communities and with priority populations experiencing health disparities, operating on the premise that the key purpose of health program evaluation is to improve prevention, research, public health and clinical practice. The Impact Evaluation Core can provide support with understanding and using these data sources, including identifying the best data source for your project, understanding the strengths and limitations of data sources, general technical assistance with data analysis, and analyzing and interpreting the data. If you are interested in receiving help with a data project or if you have questions about this resource, please contact the Impact Evaluation Core at IECReporting@MDAnderson.org or visit MDAnderson.org/ImpactEvaluation.

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Overview of the data inventory domain

The table below provides a snapshot of some of the types of data and information that can be found in each source. The table is organized by common data types and is not exhaustive. The data source names have been abbreviated, as appropriate.

	Behavioral risk factors	Cancer screening	Demographics	Incidence and mortality	Obesity/physical activity	Tobacco	Youth
ACS Cancer Statistics	X	x		X			
BRFSS	X	x			x	X	
PLACES	X	x			x	X	
Census			x				
County Health Rankings	X	x			x	X	
HINTS							
Health of Houston Survey	x	x			x	x	
HRSA		X					
NHANES	x				x	x	
NIS-Teen							X
NACQ						x	
PATH						x	
State Cancer Profiles	X	x		X			
SEER				x			
Texas BRFSS	X	x			x	X	
Texas Cancer Registry				X			
Texas Demographic Center			x				
YRBSS	X				x	x	x

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
American Cancer Society Cancer Statistics Center (ACS)	Annually	American Cancer Society (ACS)	The estimated numbers of new cancer cases and deaths in the current year.	Age Sex	National State
The Cancer Statistics Center website is a comprehensive interactive resource for learning about the cancer burden in the			Current cancer incidence, mortality, and survival rates and trends.		
United States. Produced by the American Cancer Society, the website provides detailed statistics on a range of topics including: the estimated numbers of new cancer cases and deaths in the current year, current cancer incidence, mortality,			State-level risk factor and screening metrics.		
and survival rates and trends, and state- level risk factor and screening metrics. For information about the limitations of this data source, <u>click here</u> .					

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is the nation's premier system of health-related telephone surveys that collect state data about U.S. residents regarding their health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions and use of preventive services. BRFSS now collects data in all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia and three U.S. territories. It completes more than 400,000 adult interviews each year, making it the largest continuously conducted health survey system in the world. For more on the limitations, click here, here and here.	Annually	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	Trends on behavioral risk factors such as but not limited to the following: Women's health Mammography Pap smears Smoker status Adults who are current smokers E-cigarette use Overweight and obesity (BMI) Aerobic activity Exercise Physical activity Strength activity Five servings per day (fruit and vegetables) Fruit consumption Vegetable consumption Health status – fair or poor Overall health Colorectal cancer screening Blood stool test Colonoscopy Sigmoidoscopy	Age Education Employment Income Marital status Own or rent home Race/ethnicity Sex Sexual orientation/gender identity	Covers all 50 states and D.C. Data can be queried by Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
PLACES is a collaboration between the CDC, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the CDC Foundation that provides health data for small areas across the country using BRFSS data. PLACES provides model-based, population-level analysis and community estimates of health measures to all counties, places (incorporated and census designated places), census tracts and ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) across the United States. For more on the limitations, click here.	Annually	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	Trends on behavioral risk factors such as but not limited to the following: Women's health Mammography Pap smears Smoker status Adults who are current smokers E-cigarette use Overweight and obesity (BMI) Aerobic activity Exercise Physical activity Strength activity Five servings per day (fruit and vegetables) Fruit consumption Vegetable consumption Health status – fair or poor Overall health Colorectal cancer screening Blood stool test Colonoscopy Sigmoidoscopy	Age Education Employment Income Marital status Own or rent home Race/ethnicity Sex Sexual orientation/gender identity	Provides a Small Area Estimation (SAE), generated by a statistical modeling framework.

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
County Health Rankings (CHR) The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program provides data, evidence, guidance and examples to build awareness of the multiple factors that influence health and support leaders in growing community power to improve health equity. The Rankings are unique in their ability to measure the health of nearly every county in all 50 states, and are complemented by guidance, tools, and resources designed to accelerate community learning and action. For more on the limitations, click here.	Updated as data are available	University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI)	Provides data, evidence, guidance, and examples to build awareness of the multiple factors that influence health, and support leaders in growing community power to improve health equity.	Age Education Employment status Income Race/ethnicity Sex	National State County

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS) The Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS) regularly collects nationally representative data about the American public's knowledge of, attitudes toward, and use of information related to cancer and health. HINTS data are used to monitor changes in the rapidly evolving fields of health communication and health information technology and to create more effective health communication strategies across different populations. For more on the limitations, click here and here.	Annually	National Institutes of Health (NIH)	Data to monitor changes in the rapidly evolving fields of health communication and health information technology and to create more effective health communication strategies across different populations.	Age Country of origin Education Employment status Hispanic or Latino Housing status Marital status Military service Race/ethnicity Sex Sexual orientation	National State

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
Health of Houston Survey (HOHS) The Health of Houston Survey 2018 (HHS 2018) follows the 2010 household survey in providing updated and accurate information about the health of people living in Harris County and the City of Houston (the Houston area). This information can be used to track emerging health issues, assess the impact of health programs and document health improvements in the Houston area in comparable ways. For more on the limitations, click here.	2010, 2018. Dependent upon funding.	The Health of Houston Survey 2010 and 2018 is based at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Institute for Health Policy	The Health of Houston Survey 2010 collects extensive information for multiple segments of the population on health status, conditions, behaviors, insurance coverage, and access. Some of the indicators include but not limited to the following: Ever miss breakfast Soda consumption Less than recommended PA Screen time Fast food consumption – adult Current smokers Smoking in the house Rarely eats breakfast Unscreened for breast cancer Unscreened for cervical cancer Unscreened for colon cancer Obese adults Overweight and obese adults Children at an unhealthy weight Cancer diagnosis Food insecurity Neighborhood, environment & housing	Age Employment Housing status Income Race/ethnicity Sex	Public Use Microdata Areas

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Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Uniform Data System - UDS Each calendar year, Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Health Center Program awardees and look-alikes are required to report a core set of information, including data on patient characteristics, services provided, clinical processes and health outcomes, patients' use of services, staffing, costs, and revenues as part of a standardized reporting system known as the UDS. For more on the limitations, click here.	Annually	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	The Uniform Data System (UDS) is a core set of information appropriate for reviewing the operation and performance of health centers. The UDS tracks a variety of information, including patient demographics, services provided, staffing, clinical indicators, utilization rates, costs and revenues.	Age Gender identity Income as percent of poverty guideline Insurance type Race/ethnicity Sexual orientation	State National

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
National Health and Nutrition Evaluation Survey (NHANES) The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) is a program of studies designed to assess the health and nutritional status of adults and children in the United States. The survey is unique in that it combines interviews and physical examinations. NHANES is a major program of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). NCHS is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and has the responsibility for producing vital and health statistics for the Nation. For more on limitations, click here.	Annually	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	Information on risk factors not limited to: smoking, alcohol consumption, sexual practices, drug use, physical fitness and activity, weight and dietary intake are collected. NHANES findings are also the basis for national standards for such measurements as height, weight and blood pressure. Data from this survey will be used in epidemiological studies and health sciences research, which help develop sound public health policy, direct and design health programs and services, and expand the health knowledge for the Nation.	Age Born inside/outside U.S. Education Gender Income Marital status Military service Race/Hispanic	National

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is the principal source of information on the health of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States and is one of the major data collection programs of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The main objective of the NHIS is to monitor the health of the United States population through the collection and analysis of data on a broad range of health topics. For more on limitations, click here.	Annually	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	NHIS data on a broad range of health topics are collected through personal household interviews. Survey results have been instrumental in providing data to track health status, health care access and progress toward achieving national health objectives.	Age Education Ethnicity Housing status Race Sex	National Region

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
National Immunization Surveys (NIS) are a group of phone surveys used to monitor vaccination coverage among children 19–35 months and teens 13–17 years, flu vaccinations for children 6 months–17 years, and COVID-19 vaccination for children and teens in eligible age groups, and for adults 18 years and older. The surveys are sponsored and conducted by the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and provides current, population-based, state and local area estimates of vaccination coverage among children and teens using a standard survey methodology. For more on limitations, click here.	Annually (October – June)	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	Adolescent (13-17) Vaccination Coverage.	Age Sex	HHS Regions/National States/Local Areas

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
North American Quitline Consortium (NAQC) The North American Quitline Consortium (NAQC) is an international, non-profit membership organization that seeks to promote evidence based quitline services across diverse communities in North America. NAQC's membership is made-up of over 400 organizations and individuals from across North America. For more on limitations, click here.	Annually	North American Quitline Consortium (NAQC)	The NAQC collects data on quitline financing, counseling interventions, medication provision, utilization, and staffing and evaluation. All 63 North American quitlines (all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the 10 Canadian provinces) participated in the survey	Age Race/ethnicity Sex	National

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health Study (PATH) The Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) Study is a national longitudinal study of tobacco use and how it affects the health of people in the United States. The PATH Study, which started in 2013, is one of the first large tobacco research efforts undertaken by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For more on limitations, click here.	Once a year or every other year	Collaboration between National Institute of Health (NIH) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Tobacco Products (CTP)	 Longitudinal study that examines: Reasons why some people use tobacco and others do not. How and why people: Start using tobacco Start using different types of tobacco products Use two or more tobacco products Switch from one tobacco product to another How people quit using tobacco. Reasons why some people who quit using tobacco start using it again. Changes in people's attitudes toward tobacco over time. Differences in tobacco userelated attitudes, behaviors, and health among: Men and women People of different races, ethnic groups and ages 	Age Race/ethnicity Sex	National

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
State Cancer Profiles (SCP) State Cancer Profiles is an interactive map engine produced in collaboration between the National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It was developed with the goal to provide a geographic profile of cancer burden in the United States and reveal geographic disparities in cancer incidence, mortality, risk factors for cancer and cancer screening, across different population subgroups. For more on limitations, click here .	Annually	National Institutes of Health (NIH)	Provides a geographic profile of cancer burden in the United States and reveals geographic disparities in cancer incidence, mortality, risk factors for cancer and cancer screening, across different population subgroups.	Age Education Employment Insurance status Language Race/ethnicity Sex	National

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER)	Annually	National Cancer Institute (NCI)	Annually updated tables and graphs displaying cancer statistics by cancer site and year of diagnosis, diagnosed between 1975 and 2016.	Age Race/ethnicity Sex	National
The Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program provides information on cancer statistics to reduce the cancer burden among the U.S. population. SEER is supported by the Surveillance Research Program (SRP) in NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS). SEER currently collects and publishes cancer incidence and survival data from population-based cancer registries covering approximately 48% of the U.S. population. For more on the limitations, click here and here.			Statistics: Incidence, mortality, survival, prevalence and lifetime risk statistics		

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (Texas BRFSS) The Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a federally supported landline and cellular telephone survey that collects data about Texas residents regarding their health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions and use of preventive services. Texas BRFSS is an important tool for decision-making throughout the Department of State Health Services and the public health community. For more on the limitations, click here, here and here.	Annually	Texas Department of State Health Services, via CDC's BRFSS	Trends on behavioral risk factors such as but not limited to the following: Women's health Mammography Pap smears Smoking Uses cigarettes or smokeless Tobacco Smoked in their lifetime Current smoker Physical activity (PA) Leisure time PA Insufficient aerobic PA Not meet recommendations for PA PA for 150 min/week PA for 300 min/week Strength exercise BMI questions Fruit and vegetable consumption questions Colorectal cancer screening Blood stool test Sigmoidoscopy / colonoscopy Flu shot 18 or 65 years and older Medical cost Health insurance/healthcare coverage Had skin cancer Has cancer (other than skin cancer)	Age Education Employment Income Marital status Own or rent home Race/ethnicity Sex Sexual orientation/gender identity	Covers the state of Texas; Data can be queried by Texas, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Public Health Regions, Urban and Rural Counties (Census 2010), Border and Non-Border Counties (Census 2010) and Counties.

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) is a statewide, population-based registry that serves as the foundation for measuring the cancer burden in Texas, comprehensive cancer control efforts, health disparities, progress in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship, and supports a wide variety of cancerrelated research. The TCR is one of the largest cancer registries in the United States and is one of 12 state registries funded by both the NCI's Surveillance, SEER Program and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR). For more on limitations, click here.	Annually	Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	Invasive cancer incidence and cancer mortality rates by cancer site Childhood and adolescent cancer Cancer survival rate Cancer prevalence Potential years of life lost	Age Race/ethnicity Sex	State Public Health Region Council of government Metro Statistical Area Micro Statistical Area County

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
Texas Demographic Center (TDC)	Decennially	U.S. Bureau of the Census State Data Center Program (SDC)	Focal point for the production, interpretation and distribution of demographic information for Texas.	Age Race/ethnicity Sex	State County Place
The Texas Demographic Center functions as a focal point for the production, interpretation and distribution of demographic information for Texas. The Texas Demographic Center produces and disseminates population estimates and projections for Texas, as well as other demographic information. Special emphasis is placed on data that may be useful to policy makers in dealing with issues regarding the demand for state services. For more on limitations, click here/ .					

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
Texas Youth Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) The Texas Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is a federally funded, classroombased survey conducted biennially on odd years to monitor priority health-risk behaviors that contribute substantially to the leading causes of death, disability and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. As a primary source for comprehensive statewide data on preventive health practices and health risk behaviors, YRBS is an important tool for decision-making. For more on limitations, click here.	Biennially, Odd Years	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	This surveillance tool monitors tobacco use, sexual behaviors, overweight, exercise, fruit and vegetable consumption, and other risk factors.	Age (12-18+) Grade Hispanic Race Sex	National State School District

Name	Frequency of data collection	Owner	Type of data	Demographics	Geography
The Census Bureau's mission is to serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy. The Decennial Census is conducted every 10 years and counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia and the five U.S. territories. The American Community Survey is conducted monthly every year with a sample of the U.S. population and asks about additional economic topics not asked in the Census. The Census Bureau also conducts other surveys as outlined below. For more on the limitations, click here.	Annually	United States Census Bureau	American Community Survey Annual Business Survey Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs Annual Survey of Manufacturers Business Dynamics Statistics Time Series Census of Governments Commodity Flows Community Resilience Estimates County Business Patterns Decennial Census Economic Census Island Area Economic Census Non-Employer Statistics Population Estimates: Resident Population Table Public Sector Time Series Survey of Business Owners Company Summary Zip Code Business Patterns	Age Education Employment Hispanic Housing status Income Language Marital status Poverty status Race Sex Veteran status	National State County City

Appendix A: Dashboards

Name	Description
BRFSS Prevalence and Trends Data	Provides access to prevalence estimates from the BRFSS core data at the state level as well as data from Selected Metropolitan/Micropolitan Area Risk Trends (SMART). The prevalence estimates have been updated to include both crude prevalence and age-adjusted prevalence. The tool will continue to be updated as new functions and data become available.
Health of Houston Survey: Indicators	View the Single Indicator Map in InstantAtlas, which includes area percentages, maps and rankings. There is an exporting option available for presentations.
Healthy North Texas Community Health Dashboards	Learn about North Texas's health and wellness. Compare indicators for your community against state averages, county values and target goals. Discover areas of excellence and improvement in the community.
HRSA Dashboards	Interactive dashboards to help visualize HRSA's impact across the nation.
NHANES Dashboards	These data represent estimates from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) from 1999–2000 through 2017–2018. Navigation buttons on the side bar are available to filter results by topic and show results as a line graph, bar graph or table. Results can be filtered by sex, age group and survey years (in bar graph and table views). Different topics include chronic conditions, diet, infectious disease and oral health.

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Name	Description
NHIS Interactive Biannual Early Release Estimates	Interactive Biannual Early Release Estimates provide health statistics based on data from the 2019-2022 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) for selected health topics for adults aged 18 years and over. All estimates are unadjusted percentages based on preliminary data files and are released prior to final data editing and final weighting to provide access to the most recent information from the NHIS. Estimates can be grouped by demographic characteristics (such as age, race and Hispanic origin, or sex).
RGV Community Health Dashboards	Learn about RGV's health and wellness. Compare indicators for your community against state averages, county values and target goals. Discover areas of excellence and improvement in the community.
SEER*EXPLORER Application	SEER*Explorer is an interactive website that provides easy access to a wide range of SEER cancer statistics. It provides detailed statistics for a cancer site by gender, race, calendar year, age, and for a selected number of cancer sites, by stage and histology.
Texas Cancer Registry Cancer Rates	Maps display the age-adjusted incidence/mortality rates for all counties, or custom county groupings. Rates for the geographic regions are color coded by quartile (25% groups). The quartiles by region are color coded red, orange, gold and yellow, with red being the highest age-adjusted rates and yellow being the lowest age-adjusted rates. A dotted pattern will appear on counties with unstable age-adjusted rates.

Appendix B: Publications

Below are links to publications that utilize the respective data sources. The publications provide examples of how other researchers have used/analyzed the data.

Name
American Cancer Society (ACS) Cancer Statistics Center
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) PLACES
County Health Rankings (CHR)
Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS)
National Health and Nutrition Evaluation Survey (NHANES)
National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
National Immunization Survey - Teen (NIS-TEEN)

Name North American Quitline Consortium (NAQC) Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health Study (PATH) Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (Texas BRFSS) Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) Texas Demographic Center (TDC) Texas Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) United States Census Bureau

A special thank you to the Texas Health Institute for their contributions to this tool.