New York State Cancer Mapping

Overview

New York State Department of Health Center for Community Health Division of Chronic Disease Prevention Bureau of Cancer Epidemiology New York State Cancer Registry

OPEN Data NY

Overview

The Cancer Mapping dataset consists of counts of newly diagnosed cancer among New York State residents. It was prepared in response to legislation signed into law in 2010 (Public Health Law §2401-B). The law specifies the publication of maps showing cancer counts for small geographic areas along with certain facilities regulated by the state Department of Environmental Conservation. These maps have been integrated into a single Environmental Facilities and Cancer Map site hosted by the Department of Health. These data are the same data used to populate the open data platform. To go to this site, please click on this link:

http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/environmental facilities/mapping/

The dataset being published is ONLY for the cancer-related data fields on the Environmental Facilities and Cancer Mapping web site. This dataset includes observed counts for 23 separate anatomical sites at the level of census block group. Block groups are small geographic areas typically averaging 1,000 to 1,500 people. To protect confidentiality, each area contains a minimum of 6 total cancers among males and 6 total cancers among females. In order to achieve this confidentiality threshold, some block groups were merged. A Block Group Crosswalk file is provided to indicate which areas were merged.

The dataset also includes age and sex-adjusted expected cancer counts. Expected counts are the number that would be expected if the rate was uniform throughout New York State, allowing for variations in the age and gender composition of the population. The data also indicate whether each block group belongs to a highlighted area. Highlighted areas are those with statistically unusual cancer excesses or deficits as determined by the spatial scan statistic.

Data Collection Methodology

Cancer is a reportable disease in New York State. Public Health Law Section 2401 requires that all hospitals, physicians, dentists, laboratories, and other health care providers notify the Department of Health of all diagnoses of cancer. The New York State Cancer Registry (NYSCR) collects and processes this information on an ongoing basis. Among the data reported to the NYSCR are the dates of diagnosis, anatomical site of cancer, type of cancer cell (histology), and residential address at the time of diagnosis. These pieces of information were used to compile the data contained in this file. More detail on the data collection process can be found at the NYSCR web site:

http:/	/www.	health	n.ny.gov	/statistics/	cancer/	registry/	'about	.htm

Limitations

The data provided here are aggregated to small geographic areas. Individual age, sex, race, ethnicity, or other demographic information about the patients is not provided. Data are based on the residential address at the time of diagnosis. It is likely that cancer patients lived elsewhere before their diagnosis. This is important because cancer can take many years (typically 5 to 40) to develop. This is referred to as cancer latency. People's exposures earlier in life, at a different address, may have contributed to their cancer.