

Guam Cancer Registry

FY 2023 Annual Report



**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
CANCER RESEARCH CENTER**

Research for Healthier Tomorrows

Guam Cancer Registry

A Joint Project of the UOG Cancer Research Center
and the Guam Department of Public Health & Social
Services

This document provides information at the end of each fiscal year on how the funds provided by PL 30-80 to the Guam Cancer Registry have been used and the progress made in collecting cases and supporting cancer research, education, and outreach on Guam.





BACKGROUND

The Guam Cancer Registry (GCR) is a population-based registry that is tasked with recording all cancer cases occurring among residents of Guam. The Registry had a very humble beginning in 1998 as just one of many collateral duties of the Territorial Epidemiologist. At that time, the main sources of data were death certificates on file at the Office of Vital Statistics, Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), and records provided by the American Cancer Society-Guam Chapter (ACS-Guam).

The GCR became a unit of the Cancer Research Center of Guam (CRCG) in 2004, a joint venture of the University of Guam (UOG), the Guam DPHSS, and the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center (UHCC). With funding provided by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the GCR was able to hire a full-time data collection specialist. This greatly improved the ability of the GCR to collect more accurate and complete information regarding Guam cancer cases. In recognition of its progress, in 2006 the GCR was awarded full-member status in the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR), of which it remains a member. A second data collection specialist was hired in February 2007. In 2022, the GCR is comprised of six staff: five full-time research associates trained in cancer case abstraction and case collection (three are Certified Tumor Registrars), and one grant assistant who provides administrative support. Through mentoring by the Hawai'i Tumor Registry (HTR) and the Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry (PRCCR), the GCR continues to seek improvement of the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of its cancer data to meet the exacting standards set by the NAACCR and the National Cancer Institute/Surveillance & Epidemiological End Results (NCI/SEER) research programs. Achievement of these objectives is important because the GCR is a resource cornerstone for health planners and the ongoing effort of the University of Guam to develop excellence in the fields of health education and research.

LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS TO GCR

FISCAL YEAR	APPROPRIATION RECEIVED (\$)
2011	\$186,732.00
2012	\$103,249.00
2013	\$123,072.00
2014	\$129,267.00
2015	\$203,097.00
2016	\$196,995.00
2017	\$236,833.00
2018	\$272,602.00
2019	\$389,144.00
2020	\$330,722.00
2021	\$330,722.00
2022	\$330,772.00
2023	\$389,144.00

A condition of continued financial support of the GCR by the NCI is evidence of local support by the Guam community. Passage of Public Law 30-80 in 2010 by the Guam Legislature which stipulates that the GCR will receive 1% of tobacco tax revenues annually provides evidence of that support. This local support is critical to the sustainability of GCR.

Table 1. Funding history of Guam Cancer Registry

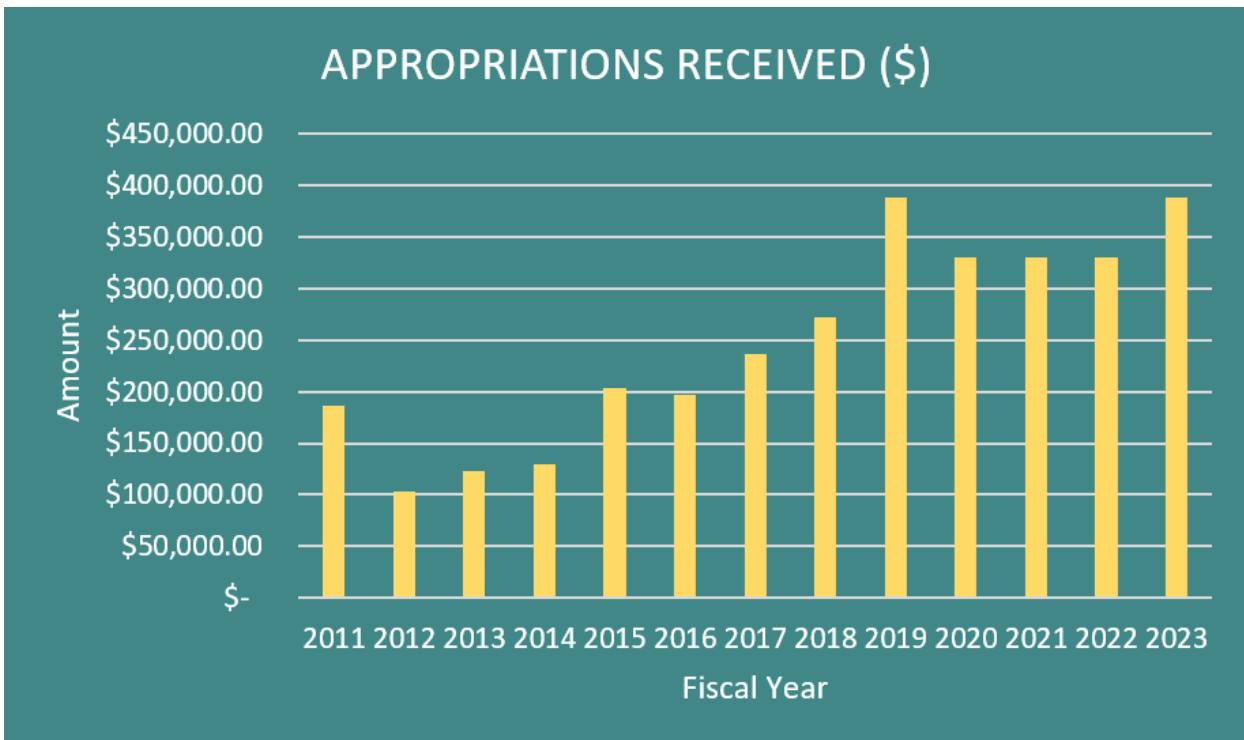


Figure. 1 Appropriations to GCR from the Guam Legislature. FY2011-FY2022



DATA COLLECTION, OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY WORK

GCR continues to seek improved data collection by developing community-based partnerships and data sharing agreements with local and regional area hospitals, physicians, medical clinics, and outpatient treatment centers. Outreach to “mandated reporters” is a continuous challenge as the number of medical and non-medical service providers to cancer patients increase. The inclusion of non-medical service providers - such as non-profits and insurance companies - since DPHSS updated its regulations for GCR in October 2010 (under authority of Public Law 24-198) has increased GCR’s ability to collect more complete incident cases of cancers diagnosed among Guam residents.

Tools such as GCR’s Outreach Poster, Mandated Reporters Policy & Procedure Manual, confidential online WebPlus reporting capability, and the Cancer Research Center website continue to educate service providers and the general public about the importance and outcomes of reporting to the registry.

GCR regularly participates in the Data & Research Action Teams of the Guam Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition (GCCCC), as well as the Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) forums hosted by DPHSS. It strives to be of use to our island community by disseminating information collected about cancer on Guam and other parts of Micronesia (as well as other US-affiliated Pacific Island jurisdictions).

GCR continues to partner with and support community organizations involved in data and surveillance activities in Guam and the Pacific Region as well as concerned citizens such as cancer survivors and their families. In addition to GCCCCP, NCD, and Guam Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (GBCCEDP) – all organizations under DPHSS’s umbrella, GCR works with Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA), Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands (CCPI), UH-UOG Pacific Island Partnership for Cancer Health Equity (PIPCH/EU54), and PRCCR. GCR has participated in Governor's Proclamations and provided data for Breast Cancer, Cervical Cancer, and Lung Cancer Awareness Months.

Registry staff fielded at least 10 inquiries during Fiscal Year 2023 and provided cancer data to two PIPCHE researchers, one Guam senator, two DPHSS personnel, one HTR personnel, a GHMA personnel, and University of Guam students. GCR staff also provided mortality data, Guam incidence data from PRCCR, and participated in the writing and production of Guam Cancer Facts and Figures 2013-2017. The Guam Cancer Facts and Figures 2013-2017 was published in November 2022.

ACTIVITIES

The following is a Summary Report of GCR activities funded by Guam's tobacco tax during the recent budget cycle – Fiscal Year 2023. This report covers the time period from October 1, 2022 thru September 30, 2023.



PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

- GCR staff attended training with Hawai'i Tumor Registry (HTR) staff and all Pacific Island Jurisdiction (PIJ) registrars focusing on common abstracting errors and upcoming updates for cases diagnosed in 2021.
- Employees attended the National Cancer Registrars' Association (NCRA) Education Conference from May 7-10. This conference provided educational sessions to showcase critical cancer registry topics and help registrars stay current.
- GCR Team assisted the PRCCR Team to provide onsite training and abstracting to our American Samoa, Yap, and Republic of Marshall Islands Jurisdiction's Cancer Registry.
- N. del Mundo and L. Refugia presented on the success of using online learning in hiring a cancer registrar in Yap at the CDC-NPCR (National Program of Cancer Registries) Education and Training Coordinator (ETC) Virtual Workshop.
- M. Snively and S. Nagata completed Anatomy and Physiology courses as a prerequisite for the Certified Tumor Registry (CTR) exam and sit for the Fall exam cycle

Due to the evolving nature of the cancer registry world, annual trainings are required to ensure that registry staff are aware of the changes. The changes in both coding practices and abstracting principles are set by national registry standard setters. These standard setters provide the trainings needed for the registrars thus allowing us to prepare for the national CTR certification process or to maintain the required continuing education credits. The GCR team currently has 2 CTR staff on hand.



ABSTRACTING, ACTIVE & PASSIVE CASE COLLECTION

Active Case Collection is the active pursuit of cancer case documents located in hospitals, laboratories, and surgical/medical clinics for purposes of abstracting. Passive case collection occurs when mandated cancer case reporters submit cancer case documents or cancer patient listings for a specific time-period. GCR acts as both a hospital registry (abstracting cases they diagnose and treat) and a central registry (collecting, consolidating, and editing already abstracted cancer cases).

- GCR staff continued to receive monthly death certificates from DPHSS-Office of Vital Statistics and complete "death clearance" (resolve vital status) for abstracts
- For this Fiscal Year, GCR received Patient Listings from the following organizations: American Cancer Society, Guam Regional Medical City (GRMC) Health Information Management (HIM) office, MDX Imaging Center, Guam Surgicenter LLC, EM Calvo Cancer Foundation, GRMC Lab, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) Records Dept, Island Cancer Center (ICC), Cancer Center of Guam (CCG), GRMC Pathology Lab, Guam Seventh Day Adventist Clinic (GSDA), Guam Cancer Care and Staywell Insurance.

- For this Fiscal Year, GCR received cancer cases from the following organizations: GRMC HIM, MDX Imaging Center, Guam Surgicenter LLC, GRMC Pathology Lab, Texas Central Registry, California Central Registry, GMHA Records Dept, CCG, ICC, and Hawai'i Tumor Registry (HTR).
- For this Fiscal Year, GCR conducted active case collection at the following: CCG, ICC, GRMC, and Ayuda Foundation.

For Fiscal Year 2023, GCR exceeded their annual average submission number of 391 cases and submitted 414 “2021” cases (or 121%) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



NEW AND UPDATED EQUIPMENT

In the past year, we purchased new equipment for our expanding workplace such as:

- Shredder for proper file record management
- Updated main PC for increased security and computer efficiency
- UPS system for power backup
- Ring doorbells for added security



ASSISTANCE TO PACIFIC ISLAND JURISDICTION (PIJ) REGISTRY PARTNERS

GCR staff continue to work with PIJ registrars on case collection, identifying abstracts that belong to their jurisdictions, and collaborative training. Partially abstracted PIJ cases (non-Guam residents) with Date of Diagnoses 2007 to 2021 were identified, completed, and exported to PRCCR. The majority were Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) cases.

GCR regularly scans non-resident cancer cases and documents exchange of cases with Transmittal Letters to CNMI and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). PIJ cases are also transmitted to the proper registries using WebPlus secure online transmission. With the assistance of the Hawai'i Tumor Registry, GCR Staff was able to provide ePath reports to Majuro and the CNMI.



DIFFICULTIES DUE TO TYPHOON MAWAR

Although Typhoon Mawar did not affect GCR's ability to complete the abstracts for the current year's submission, it will hinder the case collections for the upcoming year. As we were able to complete most of the case collections prior to the typhoon, we anticipate a delay in collection for FY 2024. We have received confirmation that two of our major reports were hit with extreme damage. Case collection has stalled as they are still in the recovery process while also providing care. We will work with all our facilities to ensure we are able to collect all the required cases for this year's submission.



WHAT'S NEXT?

- S. Nagata will be taking the ODS exam in Summer 2024
- GCR will be moving forward with Geocoding map project that will provide visual display of cancer statistics (2018-2021) for the island to include:
 - Top 10 cancers
 - Village breakdown
 - Regional breakdown (northern, central, southern)
 - Gender
- Publishing 3-year Facts and Figures (2018-2020) which will include cancer statistics based on :
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Top 10 cancers

CONCLUSION

It is a goal of the University of Guam to become a center of outreach, learning, and research about cancer and cancer health disparities in our region. The continued support of the Guam Legislature and the Governor of Guam in achieving this goal is greatly appreciated by the University and will undoubtedly be of great future benefit to the people of our island as well as our island neighbors.

Please access our website – <https://www.uog.edu/research/guam-cancer-registry>– for more detailed information about cancer health disparities research and research findings, as well as our publications. Also please see Addendum A for recent Guam cancer data.

With appreciation and thanks to Dr. Rachael Leon Guerrero, Dr. Pamela Peralta Taitano, Renata Bordallo, Naomi del Mundo, Lymona Refugia, Shirday Nagata, Maria Snively, and Amber Tabalanza.

MEET THE TEAM



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Maria Snively
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ADDENDUM A – RECENT GUAM CANCER DATA

Top 10 ADULT CANCERS Guam 2007-2021	# of Cases	Crude rate	Incidence rate Adj to US Std population	Incidence Rate Adj to World Std population	US incidence rate
All Sites	5048	331.1	302.3	225.0	449.0
Lung & Bronchus	839	55.0	53.8	38.6	56.0
Breast	816	108.3	88.8	69	128
Prostate	610	78.5	87.9	60.5	110.0
Colon & Rectum	576	37.8	34.7	25.7	38.0
Liver	246	16.1	13.6	10.7	9.0
Uterus	240	32.1	24.9	20.3	28.0
Leukemia	169	11.1	11.3	7.8	14
Thyroid	168	11.0	8.1	7.0	14.0
Tobacco-related Oral Cavity & Pharynx	114	7.5	6.2	4.9	12.0
Stomach	107	7.0	6.9	4.9	6.0
Cervical Cancer, invasive	103	13.8	9.9	8.6	7.8

Source: Incidence Data reported from Guam to Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry, 2007-2021

2007-2021: 5048 total cancer cases for age over 20 and 16 childhood leukemia, 2 child Brain (1y,4 y), 2 Bones & Joints, 1 child breast (14y), 2 child colon & rectum (17y), 1 eye & orbit (2 yr), 1 Hodgkin disease(7), 1 child ill defined, 3 Kidney & Renal Pelvis, 2 child non-hodgkin lymphoma, 2 child other digestive, 1 liver(1yr), 1 Other Endocrine(17y), 1 other male genital, 1 other respiratory, 1 ovary, 1 peripheral nerves, 1 small intestine, 1 Soft Tissue, 2 testis, 2 thyroid, 1 urinary bladder

Breast cancer rate is based on female population only. 6 Male breast cancer cases reported



PARTNER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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American Cancer Society
Cancer Center of Guam
Edward M. Calvo Cancer Foundation
Guam Cancer Care
Guam DPHSS Office of Vital Statistic
Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Pathology Lab
GMH Medical Records Department
Guam Regional Medical City Health Information Management office
Guam Regional Medical City Pathology Lab Department
Guam Seventh Day Adventist Clinic
Guam Surgicenter LLC
Hawai'i Tumor Registry
Island Cancer Center
MDX Imaging Center
Pacific Daily News Obituary
Staywell Insurance
California Central Registry
Texas Central Registry



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**Guam Seventh-day
Adventist Clinic**



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