

# South Australian Cancer Registry

## Data Quality Statement



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*-REVIEWED ANNUALLY-*



Government of South Australia  
SA Health

SA·NT



DataLink

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[www.santdatalink.org.au](http://www.santdatalink.org.au)

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CANCER REGISTRY

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## Data Quality Statement

This Data Quality Statement is intended to assist Researchers with understanding the strengths, weaknesses and utility of this dataset for Statistical Linkage Projects. This dataset has been assessed against the seven dimensions of data quality, as set out in the Australian Bureau of Statistics [Data Quality Framework](#):

- [Institutional Environment](#)
- [Relevance](#)
- [Timeliness](#)
- [Accuracy](#)
- [Coherence](#)
- [Interpretability](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

The South Australian Cancer Registry provides population based statistics about cancer incidence, mortality and survival for residents of South Australia. It collects a minimum dataset for each newly diagnosed case of reportable cancer, and updates the case record with further cancer-related information, as required, for the rest of the person's life.

## **Institutional Environment**

### **Organisation**

South Australian Department of Health

### **Authority for Collection**

Health Care Regulations 2008, Part 6 —Reporting of Cancer

## **Relevance**

### **Purpose of the Collection**

The SA Cancer Registry enables surveillance of trends in cancer incidence, mortality and survival by cancer type and population sub-group. It allows comparison of the South Australian cancer experience with the experience of other regions, both nationally and internationally. South Australian law requires that cancer events (diagnosis, radiotherapy, death) are notified by prescribed agencies.

### **Population Covered**

Information is collected for South Australian residents who are diagnosed with cancer.

### **Geographic Coverage**

South Australia

### **Reference Period**

Data for linkage purposes are available from 01st January 2000.

The South Australian Cancer Registry commenced operation in 1977.

## **Timeliness**

### **Frequency of Collection**

Notification of cancer cases are received by the Cancer Registry as per [SA Cancer Regulations](#).

### **Frequency of Release**

Reports are published every calendar year reflecting date of cancer diagnosis (or date of death in the rare case where date of diagnosis is unknown).

## Timeliness of Release

There is a time lag of approximately two years between the close of a calendar year and publication of that year's report. The lag period is due to the time necessary to perform local and national quality assurance checks, data analysis, report writing and approval.

## Accuracy

### Quality Assurance

The quality of the data held by the SA Cancer Registry collection fundamentally reflects the quality of the data submitted by notifiers. There are a number of overlapping sources of information. As better information becomes available over time, an individual's record may change. A variety of data quality checks are performed on all data, including yearly crosschecks with major public and private hospital separations data, yearly crosschecks with the National Death Index (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) to capture patient deaths recorded interstate, and yearly crosschecks against interstate registry data to capture duplicate cases.

### Coverage

The non-melanocytic skin cancers are not included in the cancer registry collections, with the exceptions of skin of lip and skin of male and female genitals. "In-situ" cancers and neoplasm of uncertain behaviour are not included.

## Coherence

### Internal Consistency

From 1980 the SA Cancer Registry has used the ICD-9 (local version)/SNOMED codes to classify clinical data. The Registry is currently preparing to code clinical data to a national standard: ICD-03.

### Comparability

The International Classification of Diseases (ICD) ICD-9 (local version) is used to code topographic cancer site. The Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine and Modifications (SNOMED II) is used to code histopathology.

### Linkage Variables

Surname	Sex	Country of Birth
First name	Residential address	Date of Death
Second name	Date of Birth	Unique Record Number

## Interpretability

### Metadata

The South Australian Cancer Registry Manual (data dictionary), including the ICD-9 (local version) supplementary material, is available for download from [SA NT DataLink](#) (2009 is the current version).

## Accessibility

### Data Custodian

South Australian Department of Health

### Research Inquiries

Contact [Metadata and Research Advisory Services, SA NT DataLink](#)

### Method of Access

To gain access to this dataset Researchers must follow [SA NT DataLink's Application Process](#) for Statistical Linkage Projects.

### Data Availability

A formal application, which is in fact a deed between the custodians and researchers, must be signed by all custodians both prior to and after ethics approval. As one of the custodians, the SA Cancer Registry can impose conditions, one of which may specify that the Registry is informed at an early point of the substance of any intended publication.

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For further information please contact Metadata and Research Advisory Services, SA NT DataLink.

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