



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Monday, November 29, 2021

DPCAC Reviews Cancer Data

To find data about cancer in Deer Park, Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) asked its facilitator to search the Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) and also to summarize studies previously conducted for the community-industry forum by the state health department. Recent cancer statistics on Deer Park were not found, but data comparing Texas to other states and Harris County to other counties in Texas were available. Information came primarily from the Texas Cancer Registry, Cancer Epidemiology Health and Surveillance Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention's US Cancer Statistics.

TCR describes cancer as "the name given to a collection of more than 100 related diseases. In all types of cancer, some of the body's cells begin to divide without stopping and spread into surrounding tissues." The law requires hospitals, pathology labs, and certain other medical institutions and professionals to report all cancers diagnosed and treated in the state to TCR.

Cancer *incidence* is the number of newly diagnosed cases during a time period. From 2014-2018, the cancer *incidence* rate per 100,000 population was 449 in the US, 411 in Texas, and 393 in Harris County. During those same years, the cancer *death* rate was 156 people per 100,000 in the US, 148 in Texas, and 145 in Harris County.

The CDC defines a cancer cluster as a greater-than expected number of cancer cases that occur within a group of people in a geographical area over a period of time. Texas health department studies conducted for DPCAC in 1995, 2000, 2004, and 2008 did not find significantly higher cancer rates except for 3 sites in the 2000 report. (Site refers to the location of the cancer within the body.) After seeing part of the protocol for conducting a cancer cluster study, discussion in small groups did not support DPCAC requesting one at this time.

DPCAC's Jan. 24 meeting, via Zoom, will feature the annual "State of the Plants" report. Visitors are welcome! For an invitation, contact info@deerparkcac.org. Read about DPCAC meetings and see summaries of our most recent presentations at www.deerparkcac.org.