

---

# CANCER REGISTRY FACT SHEET

Colorado Central Cancer Registry  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

---

## **How many cases of cancer occur in Colorado each year?**

In Colorado, an average of 15,000 cancer cases are diagnosed each year. Around 50,000 people in the state now have cancer or have survived cancer. Cancer will strike three out of four families. An estimated one in three women and one in two men will develop cancer in their lifetime.

## **How many people die of cancer in Colorado each year?**

An average of 5,500 Coloradans die yearly from cancer. About four in ten patients who get cancer will be alive five years after diagnosis. The survival rate has steadily risen due to earlier diagnosis and improved treatment. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Colorado and the U.S after heart disease. Cancer is expected to surpass heart disease as the leading cause of death by the year 2000.

## **What is the Colorado Central Cancer Registry?**

The registry is Colorado's own statewide cancer surveillance program started in 1968 at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, funded by state tax revenues and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The registry's goal is to reduce illness and death due to cancer by providing Colorado's "scorecard" of data on incidence, treatment, survival and deaths. The registry has complete cancer data from the six-county Denver metropolitan area since 1979 and complete cancer data in Colorado since 1988.

## **How does the registry work?**

The registry collects data on all malignant cancers except non-melanoma skin cancers from Colorado hospitals, pathology labs, outpatient clinics and physicians. Each cancer incidence report is classified by type of tumor, stage of disease at the time of diagnosis, treatment methods and the age, sex, race and residence of the patient. All individual information is kept confidential as required by Colorado law. The registry staff analyzes and interprets the data, identifies trends in cancer incidence and prepares reports.

## **How is the data from the Colorado Central Cancer Registry used?**

The registry is a major resource in responding to citizens' concerns about cancer. The data is used to monitor the occurrence of cancer, to inform health professionals and educate citizens about specific cancer risks, to focus cancer control activities, to aid in research studies, to monitor effectiveness of treatment and to develop health services and screening programs.

**When is a cancer study necessary?**

A cancer study is usually started because there is concern that cancer cases in an area may be linked to an environmental cause. People may report to the Health Department that many people in the neighborhood have cancer, or they may just be interested in knowing their cancer rates. This is called a suspected "cancer cluster."

**What type of cancer study will tell us if there are more cancer cases in an area than expected?**

Usually the first step is to do an observed/expected cancer study. Using the Colorado Central Cancer Registry data, the number of cases diagnosed or observed in the area of concern is compared to the numbers expected based on the rates of cancer in a comparison population. Four decisions must be made before such a study is begun:

- What types of cancer should be studied? In initiating a study, it is important to look for cancer types that might be linked to the chemical or exposure in a neighborhood.
- What is the geographical area to be studied? A study area is often defined by census tract, set up by the U.S. Census Bureau so that accurate population statistics are available.
- What years should be studied? Often 5-10 years of data are needed to reliably estimate rates, especially in small areas.
- What population do you use for comparison? The state or local areas are typically used as comparison populations. Cancer rates from another population are used to calculate the expected cancer numbers for the study area. A cancer rate is the number of cancer cases per 100,000 people.

**Where can I get more information about the Cancer Registry?**

Colorado Central Cancer Registry

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

(303) 692-2540

Web site: [www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/cdphe\\_/dir/pp/ccchom.html](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/cdphe_/dir/pp/ccchom.html)

## Community Listing with Regional Statistical Area (RSA) Designations

### Community Description

### RSA on Map

#### **Arvada**

- east of Sheridan Blvd. RSA 305
- west of Ward Rd. and south of 64th Ave. RSA 204
- west of Ward Rd. and north of 64th Ave. RSA 202
- east of Ward Rd., south of 80th Ave. and west of Sheridan Blvd. RSA 203

#### **Boulder City - Periphery**

- located in Boulder County generally between 4-6 miles immediately northeast, east, and southeast of Boulder city limits RSA 103

#### **Broomfield**

- north of 120th Ave. and west of Sheridan Blvd. RSA 106
- north of 120th Ave. and east of Sheridan Blvd. RSA 301
- south of 120th Ave. RSA 202

#### **Erie (portion in Boulder County)**

RSA 106

#### **Federal Heights**

RSA 304

#### **Golden (portion north and east of Hwy 6)**

RSA 204

#### **Lafayette**

RSA 106

#### **Louisville**

- east of McCaslin Blvd. RSA 106
- west of McCaslin Blvd. RSA 103

#### **Marshall**

- east of Hwy. 93 RSA 103

#### **Northglenn**

- west of I-25 RSA 304
- east of I-25 RSA 306
- north of 120th Ave. RSA 301

Community Listing with Regional Statistical Area (RSA) Designations (continued)

Community Description

RSA on Map

**Superior**

- east of McCaslin Blvd.
- west of McCaslin Blvd.

RSA 106  
RSA 103

**Thornton**

- east of I-25 and north of 120th Ave.
- west of I-25
- east of I-25 and south of 120th Ave.

RSA 301  
RSA 304  
RSA 306

**Westminster**

- west of Sheridan Blvd.
- north of 120th Ave.
- east of Sheridan Blvd., south of 120th Ave., and north of Denver-Boulder Turnpike
- east of Sheridan Blvd. and south of Denver-Boulder Turnpike

RSA 202  
RSA 301  
RSA 304  
RSA 305

**Wheat Ridge (excluding south of 32nd Ave. and west of Kipling)**

RSA 205