

Andrea Barnes

From: John.Kollman@odh.ohio.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 3:42 PM
To: Andrea Barnes
Cc: Abby Volk; Holly.Sobotka@odh.ohio.gov; Wally.Burden@odh.ohio.gov
Subject: Community Cancer Concern
Attachments: Brain and Other CNS Tumors-ZIP Code 44833.xlsx

Health Commissioner Barnes,

Thank you for submitting your pediatric cancer concern to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Local health departments in Ohio take the lead in responding to cancer concerns in their health jurisdictions, however, we are pleased to assist you in your response to the mother and doctor in this case.

Background information on brain tumors in Ohio can be found in our brain tumor profile, [Brain and Other Central Nervous System Tumors in Ohio 2023 | Ohio Department of Health](#). From the report, risk factors for brain tumors include exposure to ionizing radiation and genetic syndromes, but most brain and other CNS tumors have no clear known cause. As an update, an average of 106 cases of malignant brain and other CNS tumors were diagnosed each year in Ohio from 2017 through 2021, the latest year of data available for analysis.

In evaluating community cancer concerns involving a smaller geographical area, you may need access to secure data from the Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System (OCISS). For access, complete the [OCISS Local Health Department Data User Agreement 2024 | Ohio Department of Health](#). The completed and signed form can be sent by email directly to the OCISS data steward, Roberta Slocumb at Roberta.slocumb@odh.ohio.gov.

The CDC/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) released [Guidelines for Examining Unusual Patterns of Cancer and Environmental Concerns \(cdc.gov\)](#) to assist local and state agencies in responding to community cancer concerns. The new CDC guidelines consist of 10 criteria. The first criteria states: "For the cancer(s) of concern, is the observed number of cases more than the expected number of cases?"

To answer that question, we can estimate the expected number of cases in Galion's ZIP code and compare it to the number of cases observed. Note that recent cases may not be in the cancer registry due to delays in reporting, which can be a limitation. For the 10-year period 2014-2023, there were three (3) malignant brain tumors reported for ZIP Code 44833 among children and adolescents (ages 0-19). The number expected for ages 0-19 is estimated at 1.4. Although the observed number is twice the number expected for this age group, it was not statistically different because of the effect of small numbers on variability.

For all ages combined, the number of invasive brain and other CNS cancer cases (12) did not exceed the number expected (14) in ZIP code 44833 during the ten-year period. In addition, there were also 10 benign brain tumors and three brain cases of uncertain behavior during that period. (See attached Excel file.)

I hope this information is of use to you in addressing this pediatric cancer concern. Let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

John Kollman, MS, REHS

Epidemiology Investigator
Bureau of Health Improvement and Wellness
246 North High St.
Columbus, OH 43215
P: 614.644.4791
John.Kollman@odh.ohio.gov



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