

Description of the materials of the Finnish Cancer Registry

The handling of any individual-level materials held by the Finnish Cancer Registry requires a research permit granted by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). Based on THL's research permit, we can disclose basic variables, permit-specific variables and, at our discretion, other variables that significantly benefit the research.

Basic variables:

sex (patient sex)

sex	Label
0	Male
1	Female

dg_date (date of diagnosis)

Date of sampling of the sample leading to the diagnosis of cancer or the earliest date on which the cancer was clinically diagnosed

dg_age (age at diagnosis)

Years, rounded to one decimal place

topo (the primary organ of the tumor)

Topographic code according to the ICD-O-3 classification

morpho (cytological or histological diagnosis of the tumor)

Morphological code according to the ICD-O-3 classification

beh (cancer malignancy)

behavior code according to the ICD-O-3 classification

later (cancer laterality)

later	label
missing	
3	Right
4	Left
7	Not applicable
8	Both
9	Unknown

basis (basis of diagnosis)

basis	label
7	Histology of a primary tumour
6	Histology of a metastasis
5	Cytology
4	Specific tumour marker
14	Morphology
13	Immunophenotype
10	Flow cytometry
12	Molecular genetics
15	Cytogenetics
8	Autopsy, includes histological sample
2	Clinical investigation (<i>confirmed by X-ray or equivalent</i>)
1	Clinical (<i>before death, not confirmed</i>)
9	Unknown (includes DCO 1953-2014)
0	Death certificate only (2015-)

stage (clinical spread of the tumor)

Finnish Cancer Registry's classification

stage	Label
0	Unknown
1	Localised
2	Non-localised, only regional lymph node metastases
3	Metastasised farther than to regional lymph nodes or invades adjacent tissues (5 or 6)
4	Non-localised, no information on extent
5	Locally advanced, tumour invades adjacent tissues
6	Non-localised, also distant lymph node metastases

cancertype (type of cancer)

The name of the cancer, Finnish Cancer Registry's classification

ex_date (date of exit from follow-up)**exit_status (follow-up/survival status at registry close date)**

Is the person alive, dead, or living abroad at the end of follow-up

exit_status	label
0	Alive
2	Dead
3	Lost to follow-up

dg_munic_staty (home municipality on the year of finding *)

Home municipality for the person who fell ill with cancer in the year of the finding according to the municipal division for the statistical year

dg_hosp_staty (hospital district on the year of finding*)

Hospital district of diagnosis based on municipality code from statistical year

dg_hosp_staty	label
missing	
1	Uusimaa
2	Helsinki
3	Southwest Finland
4	Satakunta
5	Kanta-Häme
6	Pirkanmaa
7	Päijät-Häme
8	Kymenlaakso
9	South Karelia
10	South Savo
11	East Savo
12	North Karelia
13	North Savo
14	Central Finland
15	South Ostrobothnia
16	Vaasa
17	Central Ostrobothnia
18	North Ostrobothnia
19	Kainuu
20	Länsi-Pohja
21	Lapland
22	Åland

dg_uni_staty (university hospital district of diagnosis*)

University hospital district of diagnosis based on municipality code from statistical year

dg_uni_staty	label
missing	
1	Helsinki
2	Turku
3	Tampere
4	Kuopio
5	Oulu
6	Åland

Permit specific variables:

hetu (patient's social security number)

The THL permit should mention the retrieval of the social security number

bi_date (patient's birthday)

The THL permit should mention the retrieval of the date of birth or social security number

status_close (follow-up/survival status at registry close date, unmodified)

alive, dead of this cancer, dead of causes other than this cancer, living abroad

A permit from Statistics Finland for cause of death data

status_close	label
0	Alive
1	Dead due to cancer
2	Dead due to other cause
3	Lost to follow-up

de_cause (patient's cause of death)

ICD-7 until 1995 & ICD-10 from 1996. The information comes directly from Statistics Finland.

Requires a permit from Statistics Finland to access cause of death data and a note that the cause of death data have been obtained from the Finnish Cancer Registry.

lab_sample_id (pathology laboratory sample identifier)

Laboratory-specific designation that identifies the sample

The THL permit should mention the pathology laboratory sample number

Special variables:

Special variables in the Finnish Cancer Registry are separately produced data obtained from the material reported in the registry. The data contain more specific information about e.g. individual pathological samples. The disclosure of special variables is always considered on a case-to-case basis. Compared with basic variables, processing and compiling special variables is more laborious.

gradus (tumour grade)

The coverage of the tumour grade variable varies, and this variable is available from recent years only

Clinical stage classifications

TNM

TNM classification given in the clinical notification submitted to the Finnish Cancer Registry. Definitions are disease-specific. Incomplete coverage

Ann Arbor -stage

The stage given in the clinical notification submitted to the Finnish Cancer Registry. Definitions are disease-specific. Incomplete coverage.

Verbal staging

Verbal description of the stage given in the clinical notification. Incomplete coverage.

met_syre (clinical spread of the tumor (FCR))

met_syre	label
0	Unknown
1	Localised
2	Non-localised, only regional lymph node metastases
3	Metastasised farther than to regional lymph nodes or invades adjacent tissues (5 or 6)
4	Non-localised, no information on extent
5	Locally advanced, tumour invades adjacent tissues
6	Non-localised, also distant lymph node metastases

met_def_type (spread category basis)

met_def_type	label
missing	
0	TNM
1	Verbal
2	Stage
3	Ann Arbor stage

met_tumor (spread category, tumor)

See met_def_type, what information the variable includes

Column class	Number of levels	First level	Last level
"character"	72	0	X

met_lymph_node (spread category, lymph node)

See met_def_type, what information the variable includes

met_lymph_node
0
1
9
N0
N0 (i+)
N0 (i-)
N1
N1a
N1b
N1c
N2
N2a
N2b
N2c
N3
N3a
N3b
N3c
NX

met_metastases (spread category, metastasis)

See met_def_type, what information the variable includes

met_metastases
0
1
9
M0
M1
M1a
M1b
M1c
MX

org_name (pathology laboratory organization identifier*)

pad, morpho_text, topo_text (diagnosis of pathology sample)

Sample-specific, one cancer diagnosis may be associated with multiple pathological diagnoses.

multi (multiple primary rank)

Will be supplied upon request, definition to be agreed separately

iccc3 (childhood cancer classification)

Intern. Class. of Childhood Cancer, 3rd ed.

Will be disclosed if specifically requested

iarccrgtools_icd10 (ICD-10 code from IARC CRG Tools)

ICD-10 code produced by the ICD-O-3 -> ICD-10 programme of IARC CRG Tools.

Automatically generated ICD-10 classes may be illogical due to changes in registration practices

ex_munic_staty (municipality at exit from follow-up*)

Same definitions as in dg_munic_staty

ex_hosp_staty (hospital district at exit from follow-up*)

Same definitions as in dg_hosp_staty

ex_uni_staty (university hospital district at exit from follow-up*)

Same definitions as in dg_uni_staty

***Will not be disclosed if the person has prohibited the disclosure of his/her data.**

More detailed information about variables is available by e-mail at kirjaamo@cancer.fi