

## Questions and answers from the SEER\*Stat webinar

### Questions about SEER\*Stat software and data access

- Q** Do users still need to sign for a license for the software?
- A** Yes, each user must complete the software terms of use one time for each application that we make available (not each version). The “beta” version, even when it becomes production is considered a different application than the current production version.
- Q** Is eRA Commons account necessary to use SEER\*Stat, or can it be also used using personal/work/school email address?
- A** An eRA commons account is only required to obtain access to SEER Research Plus data (and some other databases - SEER Specialized data, NAACCR databases, UCSS databases). Users can get access to SEER research data without an eRA commons account. But again, this is for data access. The software can analyze data that we have in our servers which requires the user to get some SEER access and/or users data (local to them). No SEER data access is required to use SEER\*Stat to analyze your own data.
- Q** Do I have to use windows system to use this software?
- A** The new version will be Windows only. So, it will require a Windows emulator to use it on other systems.
- Q** When is the old version going away?
- A** We expect the old version to go away in the spring or early summer of 2025, but we don't have an exact date.
- Q** How often will there be updates? Do you have a schedule?
- A** As it is beta application, we will have more frequent updates than we do with production software. However, not all updates will require the user to update. We will only “force” an update when larger issues are fixed.
- Q** Does the switch to multiple instances of SEER\*Stat running have any issues with higher computer resources used?
- A** No, there are no additional resources required for this.
- Q** What is the version number of SEER\*Stat used in this demo?
- A** It was 9.0.30.0
- Q** How does the SEER\*Stat software get updated?
- A** SEER\*Stat has auto-update functionality. Once you have the beta version installed, future (forced updates) will be handled the same way as the current production version.
- Q** I try to start a session, there is a window asking me to verify data location. It says "There are no valid data locations or databases. You may use the Preference to change your data locations. If

you are using a Client-Server data location, you should use the File\Option menu to refresh the SEER\*Stat cache files.” Where is the "Preferences" option?

**A** This is likely a firewall issue and the port is not open for communication to the beta server IP address. It’s hard to know for sure, but please reach out to [seerstat@imsweb.com](mailto:seerstat@imsweb.com) if having issues using the beta or production software.

**Q** Is there a way for investigators to access SEER data without SEER\*Stat?

**A** The SEER data can be analyzed outside of SEER\*Stat, but currently the only way to access the data is through SEER\*Stat. A SEER\*Stat case listing can be used to export the data as delimited text files which can be used by other analytic software.

### **Questions about data analysis using SEER\*Stat**

**Q** When you graph by year, will there be an option for a trend analysis, like in JoinPoint?

**A** No, we leave complex modeling (like JoinPoint trend analyses) to separate applications. We do not intend to build JoinPoint calculations into SEER\*Stat. JoinPoint is recommended for any trends of 6+ years and it does have its own built-in graphing.

**Q** Can the graph show the 95% confidence intervals?

**A** Yes, if confidence intervals are included in the analyses, they can be graphed. We likely will need to make some graphing changes in the future to show the estimates and the CIs together in the graphs. We definitely plan to make graphing improvements over time and this is a great example of the type of feedback we would like from the testers.

**Q** Can I change the scale of axis?

**A** Not at this time, but it is something we would consider in the future.

**Q** In survival analysis, can we compute hazard ratios that maintain the assumption of proportional hazard?

**A** No, this is more complex than the SEER\*Stat survival calculations. Similar to JoinPoint, complex modeling is not built into SEER\*Stat.

**Q** You mentioned 2021 is not yet delay-adjusted. Should we not be publishing the 2021 data right now?

**A** We do have delay adjusted statistics for 2021. The database used in the webinar was not a delay adjusted database. There are separate databases with delay adjusted statistics. And in general, for publishing trends, we recommend using delay adjusting and using JoinPoint for the trend analyses.

### **Questions about SEER data**

- Q** Are we able to use race data beyond just White, Black, and Other race? Are there other variables that differentiate Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native Americans?
- A** All of the databases that we make available that start in 1990 or later (incidence and mortality) are available by race (White, Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander) and Hispanic origin (Hispanic and non-Hispanic). The database I used for the demo was SEER 8 (1975+). For any database that starts prior to 1990, we only have race categorized as White, Black, and Other race due to population availability.
- Q** Is there a way we can get to the county-level mortality data beyond just White, Black, and Other (for Hispanic, Asian, etc.). For example, county-level Hispanic mortality rates data is available in <https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/> but not in SEER\*STAT to my knowledge.
- A** Similar to the question above. It is available if you use a mortality database that starts in 1990 or later. We have 1969+ databases and 1990+ databases and that is the primary difference.
- Q** Can we get cancer stage data at the county level for incidence or survival? If so, do we need to have access to SEER research plus data to get it?
- A** To get any SEER data at the county level, SEER Research Plus access is required. And county is only available within SEER\*Stat and not at the individual level. So, county can't be exported from the SEER Research Plus data at the individual level for analyses outside of SEER\*Stat. It can be used inside SEER\*Stat and the statistics can be exported. We do have a specialized database that requires Central IRB approval that does allow for county at the individual level. SEER Research Plus access is a pre-requisite to submitting a specialized data request.
- Q** Can we get colon cancer prevalence data at county level?
- A** Yes with the SEER research plus data you would be able to get limited-duration prevalence by county for SEER areas.
- Q** Can you use SEER\*Stat to derive the prevalence (number of patients) of a given cancer type, for example, cervical cancer (all stages and each of different stages, 1, 2, 3, 4)?
- A** SEER\*Stat and SEER data can be used to calculate limited duration prevalence. You could do this by stage, but it would be stage at the time of diagnosis, not the stage at the time of prevalence. There is no progression information in the data.
- Q** When will the 2020 Census be used for the standard population?
- A** There is no current plan to update the standard population. There is not currently a 2020 (or even 2010) "standard population" for the US. National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) produces the standard populations. For more information see: <https://seer.cancer.gov/stdpopulations/2000stdpop-use.html>