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## **NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE THE NEVADA CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRY RECEIVES GOLD STANDARD FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

*Carson City* – The Nevada State Health Division announced today that the Nevada Central Cancer Registry has again received Gold Certification for 2003 cancer data from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, Inc. (NAACCR).

“The continued dedication of the Nevada Central Cancer Registry staff is commendable,” said Alex Haartz, Administrator, Nevada State Health Division. “This year the Nevada Central Cancer Registry overcame the challenge of significant staff changes and vacancies within the program, yet still achieved Gold Certification.”

The Gold Certification is the highest possible certification awarded to cancer registries that meet established standards for excellence in completeness, accuracy, and timeliness. To qualify for Gold Certification, a registry must meet a number of exacting criteria, including timely availability of the data after the close of a diagnosis year; a completeness level of at least 95 percent, a duplication rate of 0.1 percent or less; and, an error free rate of 100 percent. In addition to meeting all of these criteria, including the 100 percent error free rate, Nevada achieved a duplication rate of 0.059 percent, almost one-half the allowable threshold. This means out of the 9,760 records that were examined, 6 were identified as duplicates. This is an especially commendable achievement, given Nevada's highly mobile population.

Since 1995, the Nevada Central Cancer Registry has been part of the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR), which is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NAACCR has set data standards for which NPCR cancer registries must attain in order to obtain silver or gold certification. This year, 51 registries received Gold Certification, while 12 registries received Silver Certification. There are 76 NAACCR member registries in North America that are eligible to submit data files for the registry certification program.

Fran Nelson, Program Manager for the Nevada Central Cancer Registry said, “The continued efforts of the hospital registry staff, pathology laboratories, physician offices and other outpatient facilities has enabled us to once again achieve this gold certification and improve the reporting of cancer in the most accurate and efficient manner. This recognition is due to the hard work of everyone involved in this process.”

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