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What Is Cancer?

Cancer is not one disease, but a group of diseases. For example, lung cancer is a completely different disease than colorectal cancer. All cancers have one thing in common, they can grow and spread uncontrollably if not diagnosed at an early stage and properly treated.

Cancer is caused by many things, like smoking, poor diet, and/or family history. The greatest risk factor for any cancer is increasing age. The risk of getting cancer increases with age. The risk of developing cancer differs for men and women. In the United States, one out of two men and one out of three women will have cancer in his or her lifetime.

What Is Cancer Incidence?

Cancer *incidence* is a measure of how many *new cancer cases* occurred in a certain period of time. A cancer *incidence rate* tells how many cancers were diagnosed per 100,000 people in the population. (For example, a cancer incidence rate of 400 means that for every 100,000 people, 400 were diagnosed with cancer).

Incidence rates can be *age-adjusted*, meaning that the age structure of the population is taken into account when rates are calculated. Adjusting for age allows us to compare rates by removing differences in the age structure among different populations. Incidence rates shown below are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

What Is Cancer Mortality?

Cancer *mortality* is a measure of how many *cancer deaths* occurred in a certain period of time. A cancer *mortality rate* tells how many people died from cancer per 100,000 people in the population. (For example, a cancer mortality

rate of 150 means that for every 100,000 people in the population, 150 died from cancer).

Cancer mortality rates can also be *age-adjusted*, taking into account the age structure of the population. Mortality rates shown below are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

Impact of Cancer in South Carolina

The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that **1,685,210** new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in **2016**. This translates to **4,617** new diagnoses each day. Furthermore, an estimated **595,690** people in the United States are expected to die from cancer in **2016**.

In South Carolina, ACS estimates **27,980** new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in **2016** or over **77** new cancer cases diagnosed each day, while an estimated **10,330** South Carolinians will die from cancer in **2016**. The four most common cancers in SC are cancers of the lung, breast (female), prostate, and colon/rectum. The four leading cancer causes of death in SC are lung, colon/rectum, breast (female), and pancreas.

Tables 1 through 4 below show the number of new cancer cases and deaths for South Carolina, including age-adjusted rates for cancers in South Carolina and the United States. The last column in each table shows how SC ranks in comparison to the other 50 states and Washington DC, excluding Nevada. A rank of 1 means that a state has the highest rate of any state, while a rank of 51 means that a state has the lowest rate of any state. *At this time, the most recent cancer statistics for South Carolina and the United States are for new cases diagnosed in 2013. Deaths occurring in 2013 are also used.*

Table 1 shows that there were a total of **24,925** new cancer **cases** in South Carolina during **2013**.

For all cancers combined, SC ranks **35th** in the nation for cancer **incidence** compared to all other states and Washington DC, excluding Nevada. Rates and rankings by sex and race are also provided.

Table 1. Cancer Incidence by Sex and Race, **2013**
South Carolina and the United States*

	US		SC		US rank
	rate	rate	new cases		
all	431.4	438.9	24,925		35
male	469.8	496.6	12,915		21
female	406.0	398.6	12,010		39
white	437.8	436.9	18,621		33
black	438.4	444.0	5,904		25

*Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry, SC Vital Records, CDC NPCR United States Cancer Statistics.

Table 2 shows that there were a total of **9,700** cancer **deaths** in South Carolina during **2013**. For all cancers combined, SC ranks **14th** in the nation for cancer **mortality** compared to all other states and Washington DC. Rates and rankings by sex and race are also provided.

Table 2. Cancer Mortality by Sex and Race, **2013**
South Carolina and the United States*

	US		SC		US rank
	rate	rate	lives lost		
all	163.0	173.1	9,700		14
male	196.2	219.1	5,336		9
female	139.1	141.0	4,364		21
white	163.3	167.4	7,170		17
black	189.5	196.8	2,465		21

*Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry, SC Vital Records, CDC NPCR United States Cancer Statistics.

Table 3 shows a comparison of cancer **incidence** between the United States and South Carolina

for selected cancer types, including SC's ranking in the US compared to other states and Washington DC, excluding Nevada.

Table 3. Cancer Incidence for Selected Cancers, **2013**
South Carolina and the United States*

cancer	US	SC		US rank
	rate	rate	new cases	
breast (female)	123.4	125.3	3,767	28
prostate (male)	102.1	106.7	3,041	18
lung/bronchus	58.8	64.6	3,760	17
colon/rectum	38.5	36.3	2,043	36
pancreas	12.3	12.8	721	17

*Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry, SC Vital Records, CDC NPCR United States Cancer Statistics.

Table 4 shows a comparison of cancer **mortality** between the United States and South Carolina for selected cancer types, including SC's ranking in the US compared to other states and Washington DC.

Table 4. Cancer Mortality for Selected Cancers, **2013**
South Carolina and the United States*

cancer	US	SC		US rank
	rate	rate	lives lost	
breast (female)	20.7	21.0	633	21
prostate (male)	19.2	21.2	457	10
lung/bronchus	43.4	49.2	2,825	14
colon/rectum	14.5	14.8	818	21
pancreas	10.8	10.8	600	29

*Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry, SC Vital Records, CDC NPCR United States Cancer Statistics.

Breast Cancer

Among women, breast cancer was the **most** commonly diagnosed cancer in South Carolina in **2013** and the **2nd** leading cause of cancer death. There were **3,767** new female breast cancer cases diagnosed and **633** deaths from the disease during **2013** in South Carolina.

Excellent methods of early detection are available for breast cancer. Women should speak with their doctor about the pros and cons of screening and to determine their level of risk. Screening typically starts around the age of 40; however, women with higher risk may need to be screened at younger ages.

Prostate Cancer

Among men, prostate cancer was the **most** common cancer diagnosed in South Carolina in **2013** and the **2nd** leading cause of cancer death. South Carolina had **3,041** new prostate cancer cases diagnosed and **457** deaths from the disease in **2013**.

Men should speak with their doctor about the pros and cons of screening and to determine their level of risk. Screening typically starts around the age of 50; however, men with higher risk may need to be screened at younger ages.

Lung Cancer

Lung Cancer was the **2nd most** common cancer diagnosed in South Carolina in **2013** and was the **leading** cause of cancer death. In South Carolina there were **3,760** new lung cancer cases diagnosed and **2,825** lung cancer in **2013**.

Men and women should speak with their doctor about the pros and cons of screening and to determine their level of risk. The only recommended screening test for lung cancer is low-dose computed tomography (low-dose CT), which is recommended for current or former heavy smokers between the ages of 55 and 80.

Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer was the **4th** most commonly diagnosed cancer in South Carolina in **2013** and the **2nd** leading cause of cancer death overall. In

South Carolina, there were **2,043** new colorectal cancer cases and **818** colorectal cancer deaths in **2013**.

There are several screening options for colorectal cancer. Men and women should speak with their doctor about the pros and cons of screening and to determine their level of risk. Screening typically starts around the age of 50; however, those with higher risk may need to be screened at younger ages.

Pancreatic Cancer

Pancreatic cancer was the **11th** most common cancer in South Carolina in **2013**; however, it was the **4th** most common cause of cancer death overall. South Carolina had **721** new pancreatic cancer cases diagnosed and **600** deaths occur in **2013**.

Currently there are no standard screening tests shown to improve the outcomes for this disease.

Stage

Cancers diagnosed in late stages lessen the potential for successful treatment and raise the risk of premature loss of life. **Figure 1** below shows the percentage of cancers diagnosed in early and late stages of disease in South Carolina.

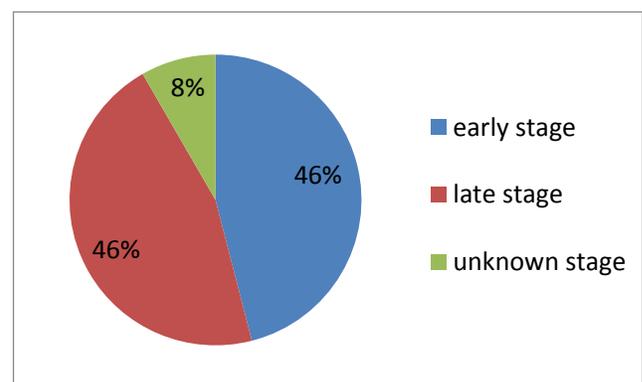


Figure 1. SC Cancers by Stage at Diagnosis, **2013**
Source: SC Central Cancer Registry. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder.

Cancer Policies, Prevention and Control

The current South Carolina Comprehensive Cancer Plan provides a road map for statewide cancer prevention and control strategies and is available from the South Carolina Cancer Alliance at www.sccanceralliance.org. The South Carolina Cancer Alliance works in collaboration with DHEC's Cancer Prevention & Control Division to engage in partnerships aimed at reducing the burden of cancer in South Carolina.

The South Carolina Best Chance Network (BCN), located at SC DHEC within the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, is a federally funded program that provides breast and cervical cancer screening, follow-up and diagnosis for low-income, uninsured women age 40 – 64. In 2014, South Carolina funded BCN with \$1 million to provide additional screening opportunities for women in SC. The BCN program screened over **11,000** women in **2015**. BCN participants are also eligible for WISEWOMAN screening services, which is a cardiovascular disease prevention program.

In 2014, the SC General Assembly allocated \$500,000 to the Colorectal Cancer Research Center at the University of South Carolina to help provide free or low cost screening for colorectal cancer in SC.

South Carolina's current cigarette tax (**57** cents per pack) is one of the lowest in the nation (national average **\$1.61** per pack). The SC Tobacco Collaborative and its organizational members, continue to work with the SC State Legislature to enact a reasonable tax rate for tobacco products in South Carolina.

SC DHEC's Divisions of Tobacco and Cancer Prevention and Control are partnering with MUSC Hollings Cancer Center and CVS Health for the SC CAN Quit Pilot Initiative. Enhanced tobacco use cessation efforts will be provided in the oncology practice setting for recently diagnosed cancer patients in South Carolina in an effort to create a systematic and sustainable change in cancer care practice. The initiative

seeks to demonstrate how best to provide these services in a clinical oncology setting. Technical assistance up to \$20,000 will be offered per practice in the pilot phase. Five sites are awarded.

Notes: Data are subject to change as data sets are updated. Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. The following suppression rules may have been applied to the data in the text and tables above: counts of 1-4 are recorded as less than 5; counts of 5-9 are rounded to 10. Rates based on counts fewer than 16 are suppressed (~).

Resources

SC Central Cancer Registry (DHEC)

<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/Cancer/CancerStatisticsReports/>

American Cancer Society

<http://www.cancer.org/research/cancerfactsstatistics/>

CDC National Program of Cancer Registries United States Cancer Statistics

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/>

Division of Cancer Prevention and Control (DHEC)

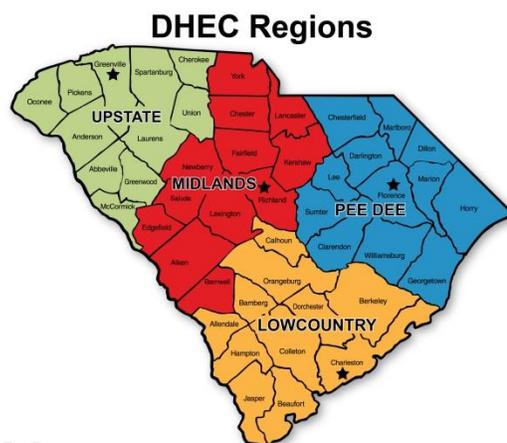
<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/Cancer/>

Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control (DHEC)

<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/TobaccoCessation/>

SC Cancer Alliance

<http://www.sccanceralliance.org/>



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South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
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