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: US, SC, and SC County
The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates
that 1,806,590 new cases of cancer will be
diagnosed in the United States in 2020. This
translates to 4,950 new diagnoses each day.
Furthermore, an estimated 606,520 people in the
United States are expected to die from cancer in
2020.

In South Carolina, ACS estimates 31,710 new
cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2020 or over
87 new cancer cases diagnosed each day, while
an estimated 10,780 South Carolinians will die
from cancer in 2020. 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 Chester County,
including age-adjusted rates for cancers in the
county and for the state of SC. The last column
in each table shows how the county ranks in
comparison to the other 45 SC counties. A rank
of 1 means that a county has the highest rate of
any county, while a rank of 46 means that a
county has the lowest rate of any SC county. At
this time, the most recent cancer statistics for
South Carolina and the United States are for
new cases diagnosed in 2017. Deaths occurring
in 2017 are also used.

Table 1 shows 5-year cancer incidence data for
Chester County and SC for all cancers by sex
and race, including Chester County’s rank in SC
compared to all other SC counties.
Table 1. Cancer Incidence by Sex and Race, 2013-2017, Chester County and South Carolina*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>Chester County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5-year rate</td>
<td>5-year rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>male</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>female</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>black</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Counts are annual averages based on 5 years of data. 5-year rates are per 100,000 age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Statistics do not include in situ cancers, except for bladder. Source: SC Central Cancer Registry. ~ Statistic could not be calculated (small counts).

Table 2 shows 5-year cancer mortality data for Chester County and SC for all cancers by sex and race, including Chester County’s rank in SC compared to all other SC counties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>Chester County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5-year rate</td>
<td>5-year rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>male</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>female</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>black</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Counts are annual averages based on 5 years of data. 5-year rates are per 100,000 age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry and SC Vital Records. ~ Statistic could not be calculated (small counts).

Table 3 shows 5-year cancer incidence data for Chester County and SC for selected cancers, including Chester County’s rank in SC compared to all other SC counties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cancer</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>Chester County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5-year rate</td>
<td>5-year rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>breast (female)</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prostate (male)</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lung/bronchus</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colon/rectum</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pancreas</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Counts are annual averages based on 5 years of data. 5-year rates are per 100,000 age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry. ~ Statistic could not be calculated (small counts).

Table 4 shows 5-year cancer mortality data for Chester County and SC for selected cancers, including Chester County’s rank in SC compared to all other SC counties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>cancer</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>Chester County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>breast (female)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prostate (male)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lung/bronchus</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colon/rectum</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pancreas</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Counts are annual averages based on 5 years of data. 5-year rates are per 100,000 age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry and SC Vital Records. ~ Statistic could not be calculated (small counts).

Table 5 shows the percentage of cancers diagnosed in early and late stages of disease in Chester County and SC. Cancers diagnosed in late stages lessen the potential for successful treatment and raise the risk of premature loss of life.
Table 5. All Cancers by Stage of Diagnosis, 2013-2017, Chester County and South Carolina*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SC Chester County</th>
<th>Percent of all cancers</th>
<th>Percent of all cancers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Stage</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>41.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Stage</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>44.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown Stage</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percent (proportions) shown are (rounded) based on 5 years of data. Statistics include in situ cancers.
Source: SC Central Cancer Registry.

Breast Cancer in Chester County

Among women, breast cancer was the number 1 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 2 leading cause of cancer death from 2013-2017. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 33 new female breast cancer cases diagnosed and 8 deaths from this disease.

Prostate Cancer in Chester County

Among men, prostate cancer was the number 1 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 4 leading cause of cancer death from 2013-2017. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 33 new prostate cancer cases diagnosed and 3 deaths from this disease.

Lung Cancer in Chester County

Lung Cancer was the number 1 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 1 leading cause of cancer death from 2013-2017. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 37 new lung cancer cases diagnosed and 27 deaths from this disease.

Colorectal Cancer in Chester County

Colorectal cancer was the number 4 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 2 leading cause of cancer death from 2013-2017. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 19 new colorectal cancer cases diagnosed and 9 deaths from this disease.

Pancreatic Cancer in Chester County

Pancreatic cancer was the number 8 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 4 leading cause of cancer death from 2013-2017. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 7 new pancreatic cancer cases diagnosed and 6 deaths from this disease.

Screening

Men and women should speak with their doctor about the pros and cons of screening and to determine their level of risk.

The SC Best Chance Network (BCN) is a federally funded program that provides breast and cervical cancer screening, follow-up and diagnosis for low-income, uninsured women age 30 – 64, screening thousands of women each year. For more information see: http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/Cancer/FreeCancerScreenings/

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)
https://www.scdhec.gov/CancerRegistry

American Cancer Society
http://www.cancer.org/research/cancerfactsstatistics/

CDC National Program of Cancer Registries
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/