INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY
The Florida Department of Health (DOH) Bureau of Epidemiology, in collaboration with
the Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS), publishes the Annual Cancer Report to
provide information about cancer incidence, stage, mortality, screening, and
hospitalization in Florida.

Cancer incidence data are collected, verified, and maintained by the FCDS, the Florida
statewide cancer registry. FCDS is administered by the DOH and operated by the
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami Miller School of
Medicine.

The FCDS began operation with a pilot project for cancer registration in 1979 and
commenced statewide collection of cancer incidence data from all Florida hospitals in
1981. The FCDS now collects incidence data from hospitals, freestanding ambulatory
surgical centers, radiation therapy facilities, pathology laboratories, and
dermatopathologists’ offices.

More information about cancer incidence and mortality in Florida can be found on the
FCDS web site at: www.fcds.med.miami.edu and on the DOH, Bureau of Epidemiology
web site at: http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-
management/disease-reporting-and-surveillance/surveillance-programs.html.

PURPOSE
The purpose of this report is to present an overview of cancer in Florida for researchers,
policymakers, health professionals, and the public. This publication is intended as a
record of the current status of cancer in Florida and a tool for healthcare planning.

Trends in cancer incidence and mortality rates are included to provide a perspective
from which to assess the effectiveness of cancer prevention and education initiatives,
new screening procedures, and treatment modalities. The estimated prevalence of
screening for several types of cancer in Florida is included to assist in planning and
evaluating cancer prevention programs. Hospital discharge data present some
components of the burden of cancer in the state.

This report provides cancer-related data to stimulate cancer research, to advance the
state’s cancer control and surveillance activities, and to help improve treatment for
cancer patients and the efficacy of cancer prevention in Florida. The DOH and the
FCDS welcome suggestions for enhancing the usefulness of this report to its readers.

INTRODUCTION TO CONTENTS
The format of the current report remains similar to the previous reports, Florida Annual
Cancer Report: Incidence and Mortality. The tables and figures show new case and
death counts, and incidence and mortality rates for all cancers combined, eight of the most frequently diagnosed cancers, and two other cancers of interest.

Cancer incidence and mortality data are presented in separate sections with counts and rates by sex, race, age group, and county. County tables show data for all the residents of each county, combining both sexes and all races. Maps of incidence and mortality rates for selected cancers by county are presented in Appendix E.

Stage at diagnosis is a factor in the prognosis of many cancers. This report presents data on cancer stage for the current year and stage trends since 1981. Additional figures show the percentage of advanced stage cancer by sex, race, and age group for all cancer and for individual cancers. These data may help to identify areas where further educational efforts should be most effective.

The mortality section includes data on years of potential life lost (YPLL) to cancer and other causes of premature death, and deaths-to-cases ratios. YPLL measures the years of life lost from death before age 75. This measure illustrates the cost of productive years eliminated by premature death and the importance of reducing those costs. Deaths-to-cases ratios are indicators of the prognosis for various cancers.

The cancer screening section presents data from the Florida Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Data on the prevalence of screening provide a means of assessing the effectiveness of efforts to promote early detection.

The section on tobacco-related cancers is presented to track the progress in eradicating a well-known destructive behavior. This section contains figures showing the prevalence of current cigarette use and the incidence and mortality rates for the cancers associated with tobacco use.

Data on the number of hospitalizations, length of hospital stay, and hospital charges for inpatients with cancer are included in an effort to describe one aspect of the burden of cancer in Florida. The data are derived from the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) hospital discharge records for which cancer is coded as the primary diagnosis. Although hospitalizations account for only a fraction of the overall burden of cancer, these data are indicators of several other substantial components of that burden: the psychosocial burden of extended hospitalizations on patients and their families; the economic burden on patients and insurance providers; and the burden of providing care and expensive technology on hospital systems.