

## 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 Florida 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 all hospitals, clinics, freestanding ambulatory surgical centers, radiation therapy centers, cancer treatment centers, anatomic pathology laboratories, and physician offices to ensure case diagnosis and treatment data are incorporated into FCDS from strategic cancer specialties including specialists in urology, dermatology, hematology-oncology, medical oncology, and dermatopathology.

More information about cancer incidence and mortality in Florida can be found on the FCDS web site at: [www.fcds.med.miami.edu](http://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 for the past 27 years. 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.