Wisconsin Cancer Statistical Fact Sheet
Racial and Ethnic Cancer Disparities

The risk of developing or dying from cancer varies by race in Wisconsin as it also does in the United States as a whole. Overall, minority populations have a higher incidence of cancer and a higher death rate. This fact sheet presents incidence (new cases) and mortality (deaths) statistics from 2009-2013 about Wisconsin residents for all cancers combined and the four most common cancer sites (lung, colorectal, breast, prostate) by four major racial groups (African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, White) and ethnicity (Hispanic/Latino).

All Cancer

On average, 31,000 cancers were diagnosed and 11,286 cancer deaths occurred each year in Wisconsin from 2009-2013. For all cancers, Wisconsin’s incidence rate was 473.1 and the mortality rate was 169.7 per 100,000 population.

African Americans had the highest incidence and mortality rates for all cancers combined in comparison with all other racial/ethnic groups. The incidence rate for all cancers was lowest among Asians/Pacific Islanders. The incidence rate for Hispanics/Latinos (of any race) was 346.7 compared to the non-Hispanic rate of 476.7 per 100,000.

Lung Cancer

American Indians/Alaska Natives experienced the highest lung cancer incidence rate of any racial/ethnic group and males had an incidence rate 75 percent higher than the rate among White males.

African Americans had the second highest lung cancer incidence rate.

Lung cancer typically results in high mortality rates that are parallel to incidence rates: American Indians/Alaska Natives had the highest mortality rate and African Americans had the second highest.

Hispanics/Latinos experienced a lower lung cancer incidence rate (35.7 per 100,000) compared with non-Hispanics (62.1 per 100,000), and also a lower lung cancer mortality rate (16.1 per 100,000) than non-Hispanics (45.4 per 100,000).
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Prostate Cancer

African Americans experienced the highest prostate cancer incidence and mortality rates.

Prostate cancer incidence rates were approximately 80 percent higher among African Americans than among Whites. Prostate cancer mortality rates were over 60 percent higher among African Americans than among Whites.

Hispanics/Latinos had a lower prostate cancer incidence rate (94.0 per 100,000) compared with the non-Hispanic rate (124.3 per 100,000) and a lower mortality rate (15.4 per 100,000) compared with the non-Hispanic rate (22.5 per 100,000).

Breast Cancer

Historically, African American women were less likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer than White women, but during 2009-2013 African American women experienced the highest incidence rate.

Asians/Pacific Islanders have lower incidence and mortality rates of breast cancer compared to other racial/ethnic groups.

Hispanic/Latina women experienced a lower breast cancer mortality rate (10.0 per 100,000) compared with non-Hispanic women (21.1 per 100,000).

Colorectal Cancer

The colorectal cancer incidence rate (51.7 per 100,000) is highest among American Indians/Alaska Natives and African Americans. African Americans had the highest colorectal cancer mortality rate and American Indians/Alaska Natives had the second highest mortality rate.

Hispanic/Latino colorectal mortality rate (6.9 per 100,000) was lower than the non-Hispanic rate (14.3 per 100,000).
Notes

This fact sheet does not cover the continuum of cancer disparities from prevention to mortality and survival. Racial/ethnic disparities stem from a complex interplay of economics, education, social factors, and access to health care.

Incidence and mortality rates are per 100,000 and are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Hispanic/Latino ethnicity includes all races.

Sources

Mortality data are from National Center for Health Statistics, in SEER*Stat (version 8.3.2). Incidence data are from Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System, Office of Health Informatics, Division of Public Health, Department of Health Services.

Suggested Citation


About Us

*The Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System (WCRS) is a population-based registry that collects, manages, and analyzes Wisconsin cancer data. Statewide data collected through cancer registries can be used to identify cancer trends, direct cancer control activities, plan and carry out prevention efforts, and conduct research. The ultimate goal of cancer surveillance is to reduce cancer mortality across all demographic groups.*

For more information: [https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/wcrs/index.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/wcrs/index.htm)