



# SOURCES OF CANCER DATA

*Bureau of Epidemiology*



## Florida Incidence

The Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS) has collected data on cancer incidence and stage at diagnosis since 1981. Hospitals, pathology laboratories, ambulatory surgical centers, radiation therapy facilities, and physicians' offices report new cancer cases to the FCDS per section 385.202, *Florida Statutes (F.S.)*. The data do not include cancers diagnosed before a person became a Florida resident.

Cancer cases in Florida residents diagnosed in other states are captured through sharing of cancer incidence data among states, according to the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) Procedure Guidelines (page two, Series I, Data Exchange). Death certificates and hospital discharge records are checked annually to capture possible missed reportable cancer cases. The cancer site is coded according to the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, Third Edition (ICD-O-3). More information about cancer in Florida can be found on the FCDS website at: <http://www.fcds.med.miami.edu/>.

The FCDS provides cancer incidence, stage, histology, initial treatment, and mortality data. Data on cancer mortality are available through FCDS but are collected by the Florida Department of Health (DOH), Office of Vital Statistics. Following is some of the information that can be obtained online from FCDS: cancer incidence, stage at cancer diagnosis and mortality by cancer site, county, sex, race, ethnicity, and age groups. Pediatric (0-19 years) cancer rates can also be obtained by the above mentioned groups. County-level incidence and mortality maps are available and display cancer case counts, age-adjusted rates, and crude rates.

## Florida Mortality

The Florida DOH Office of Vital Statistics provides information on deaths from all causes in Florida from death certificates. The underlying cause of death is coded according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). More information about deaths in Florida can be found on the Florida DOH website at: <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/DeathQuery.aspx>.

Currently mortality data for 113 cause groups are available online for the years 1979 to 2007. Mortality data are available by sex, race, ethnicity, age group, and county. Hispanic data prior to 1989 are not available. Cancer deaths are defined as those for which the underlying cause of death on the death certificate is cancer.



## Florida Prevalence of Cancer Screening

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey is part of a larger, ongoing study sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to survey and monitor major behavioral risks for premature morbidity and mortality among adults age 18 years and older. The Florida BRFSS has collected data on the prevalence of cancer screening in Floridians since 1986. Survey respondents were asked if they had ever received certain cancer screening tests and when their last screening examinations occurred.

**Breast cancer:** Females age 40 and older were asked if they received a mammogram test or a clinical breast examination within the past two years.

**Cervical cancer:** Females age 18 and older were asked if they received a Pap smear test within the past two years.

**Colorectal cancer:** Residents age 50 and older were asked if they received a sigmoidoscopy examination within the past five years and fecal occult blood tests within the past two years.

**Prostate cancer:** Males age 40 and older were asked if they received a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test and digital rectal examination within the past two years.

More information about the Florida BRFSS can be found on the DOH website at: [www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctl/epi/brfss/index.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctl/epi/brfss/index.htm).

BRFSS results by state since 1995 are available online at: <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/index.asp>.

## U.S. Incidence and Mortality

The Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) is an authoritative source of information on cancer incidence and survival in the United States. SEER currently collects and publishes cancer incidence and survival data from population-based cancer registries covering approximately 26 percent of the U.S. population.

The mortality data reported by SEER are provided by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The population data used in calculating cancer rates is obtained periodically from the U.S. Census Bureau.

More information about United States cancer statistics can be found on the NCI website at: <http://seer.cancer.gov/>. The online source provides cancer incidence and mortality data by cancer site, sex, age group, and race.

For additional information on the sources of data, please contact Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology at 850.245.4401 or visit our website at <http://www.floridachronicdisease.org/>.