



# Melanoma in Florida, 2006

## Bureau of Epidemiology



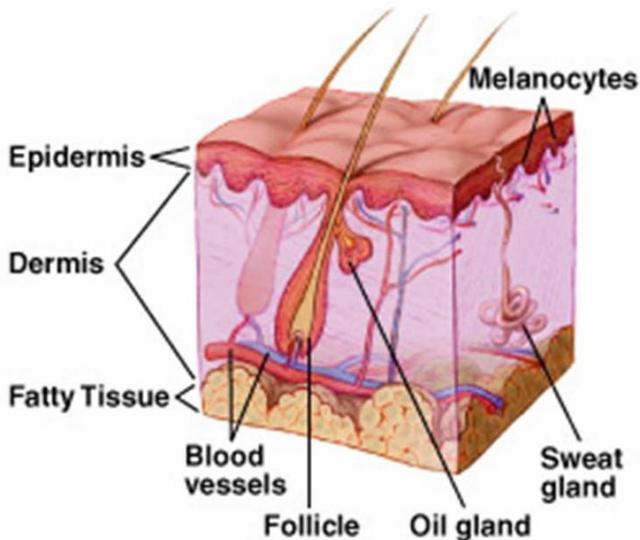
Melanoma is the most serious type of skin cancer. It begins in the melanocytes, which are the cells in the skin that make the pigment melanin. Risk factors associated with melanoma include having dysplastic nevi (abnormal moles), many ordinary moles, fair skin, personal and family history of melanoma or other skin cancer, weakened immune system, severe blistering sunburns, and exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Melanoma can be prevented by avoiding sun exposure between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., wearing sunscreen, wearing protective clothing, avoiding tanning beds, and having regular skin examinations.

This report presents data on melanoma among whites in Florida because very few melanoma cases occur among blacks. Incidence data are obtained from the Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS), and mortality data from Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics. The Florida data are compared with data from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The U.S. mortality data reported by SEER are provided by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

### Incidence

- In 2006, 3,388 new melanoma cases were diagnosed among whites in Florida.
- The age-adjusted incidence rate was 17.6 per 100,000 white people, which was lower than the SEER rate (23.1 per 100,000 white people).

Figure 1. Anatomy of the Skin



- Incidence rates were higher among those in older age groups and males.
- Florida male and female rates were significantly lower than comparable SEER rates.

### Mortality

- In 2006, 657 white Floridians died of melanoma.
- The age-adjusted mortality rate was 3.1 per 100,000 white people.
- Mortality rates increased with increasing age group.
- Males had a higher rate than females.
- Florida mortality rates did not differ significantly from the U.S. mortality rates.

Table 1. Age-Adjusted and Age-Specific\* (per 100,000) Incidence and Mortality Rates, Florida, 2005

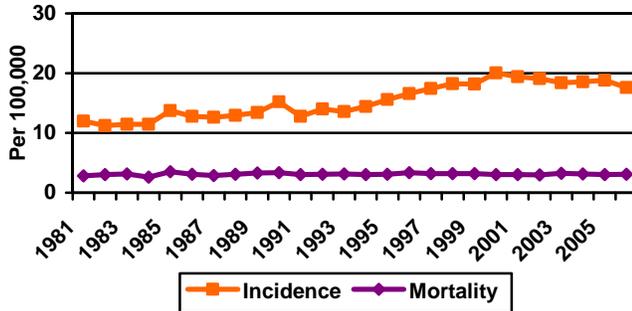
	Incidence		Mortality	
	Florida	SEER	Florida	U.S.
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>
15-39 *	6.3	N/A	0.5	N/A
40-64 *	26.4	N/A	4.4	N/A
65+ *	61.0	N/A	14.3	N/A
Female	14.2	18.9	1.7	2.0
Male	22.1	29.1	4.9	4.6

### Trends in Incidence and Mortality

- The incidence rate was 47% higher in 2006 (17.6 per 100,000) compared to 1981 (12.0 per 100,000).

- The 2006 mortality rate (3.1 per 100,000) did not differ significantly from the 1981 mortality rate (2.8 per 100,000).

**Figure 2. Age-Adjusted Incidence and Mortality Rates of Melanoma, Florida, 1981-2006**



### Stage at Diagnosis

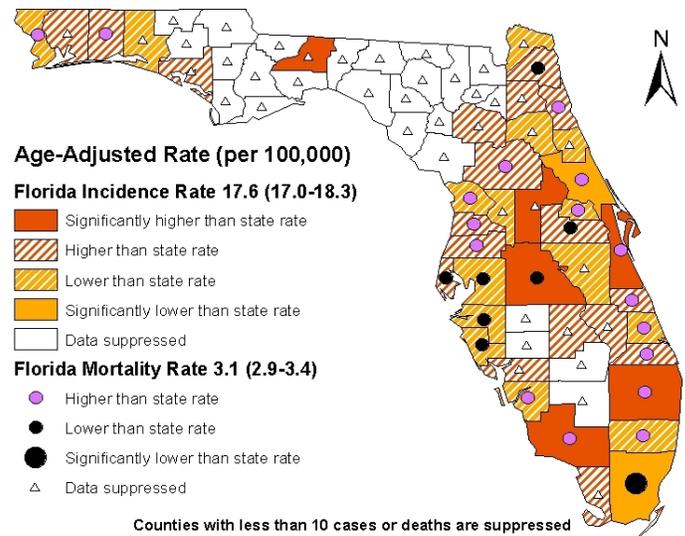
- The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends a complete skin exam every year for adults who are 40 years of age or older or more often if a person is at high risk of developing skin cancer.
- Early-stage cancer is defined in this report as cancer that is localized to one part or organ of the body. Advanced-stage cancer is defined as cancer that has spread to other organs or throughout the body beyond the organ of cancer origin.
- Of all melanoma cases, 74.8% were diagnosed at an early stage, 15.2% were diagnosed at an advanced stage and 10% were reported without stage information.
- The percentage of cases with an advanced-stage diagnosis was greater among males compared to females.

**Table 2. Percentage of Melanoma by Stage at Diagnosis, Florida, 2006**

	Early	Advanced	Unknown
All	74.8	15.2	10.0
Male	73.8	15.7	10.5
Female	76.4	14.5	9.2

- The percentage of cases with an early-stage diagnosis increased by 35% from 55.4% in 1981 to 74.8% in 2006.
- The percentage of cancer reported without stage information decreased by 67% from 30% in 1981 to 10% in 2006.

**Figure 2. Age-Adjusted Incidence and Mortality Rates of Melanoma by County, Florida, 2006**



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

For additional information about the data sources, please refer to 'Sources of Cancer Data' available at: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/cancer/CancerIndex.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/cancer/CancerIndex.htm).

For additional information on melanoma, please visit Florida Department of Health, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program's website at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/family/cancer/index.html>.