

# Ovarian Cancer in Florida, 2009

## Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology



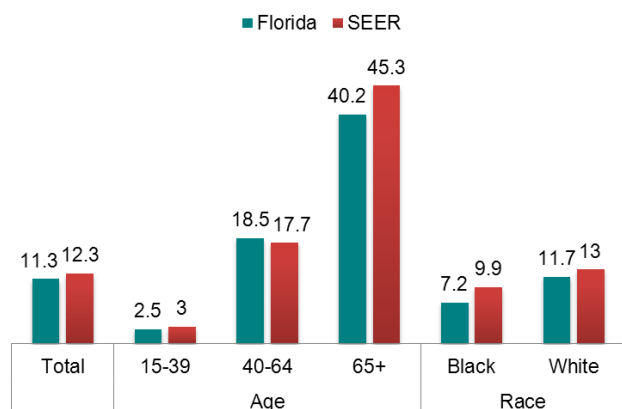
Ovarian cancer forms in tissues of the ovaries (a pair of female reproductive glands in which the ova or eggs are formed). Signs and symptoms for ovarian cancer may include: pressure or pain in the abdomen, pelvis, back, or legs; swollen or bloated abdomen; nausea, indigestion, gas, constipation, or diarrhea; and feeling very tired all the time. Less common symptoms include shortness of breath, frequent urination, and unusual vaginal bleeding (heavy periods or bleeding after menopause). Most women are over age 55 when diagnosed with ovarian cancer. In addition to age, other risk factors include: a family history (having a mother, daughter, or sister with ovarian cancer), women who have had cancer of the breast, uterus, colon, or rectum, and older women who have never been pregnant. Because the symptoms of ovarian cancer are subtle and mimic other illnesses, they often go overlooked or are misinterpreted, and may lead to an advanced-stage diagnosis and poor health outcomes for women.

This report presents incidence data on ovarian cancer obtained from the Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS), and mortality data from the 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 2009, 1,407 new ovarian cancer cases were diagnosed among females in Florida.
- The Florida age-adjusted incidence rate (per 100,000 females) of 11.3 was slightly lower than the SEER rate of 12.3.

**Figure 1: Florida vs. SEER Incidence Rates (per 100,000) by Age and Race, 2009**

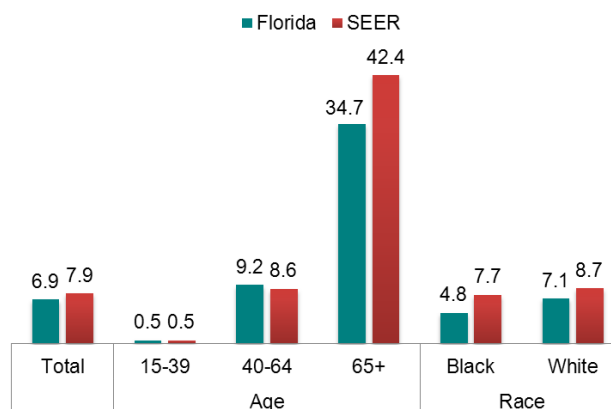


- The Florida incidence rate was higher among females age 65 and older than in females less than 65 years of age (Figure 1).
- The Florida incidence rate for females was higher among whites than among blacks (Figure 1).
- The incidence rates among both races in Florida were lower than the SEER rates.

### Mortality

- In 2009, 945 females died from ovarian cancer in Florida.
- The Florida age-adjusted mortality rate (per 100,000 females) was 6.9, which was lower than the SEER rate (7.9).

**Figure 2: Florida vs. SEER Mortality Rates (per 100,000) by Age and Race, 2009**

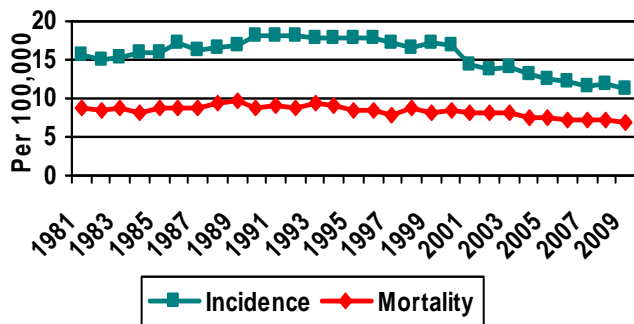


- The Florida mortality rate was higher among females age 65 and older than in females less than 65 years of age (Figure 2).
- The Florida mortality rate for females was higher among whites than among blacks (Figure 2).
- The mortality rates among both races in Florida were lower than the SEER rates.

## Florida Trends in Incidence and Mortality

- The 2009 incidence rate (11.3 per 100,000 females) was 28% lower than the rate in 1981 (15.7 per 100,000; Figure 3).
- The 2009 mortality rate (6.9 per 100,000) was 22% lower than the rate in 1981 (8.8 per 100,000; Figure 3).

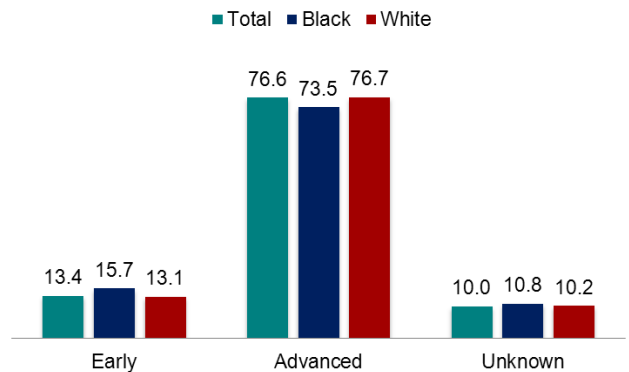
**Figure 3: Age-Adjusted Incidence and Mortality Rates of Ovarian Cancer, Florida, 1981-2009**



## Stage at Diagnosis

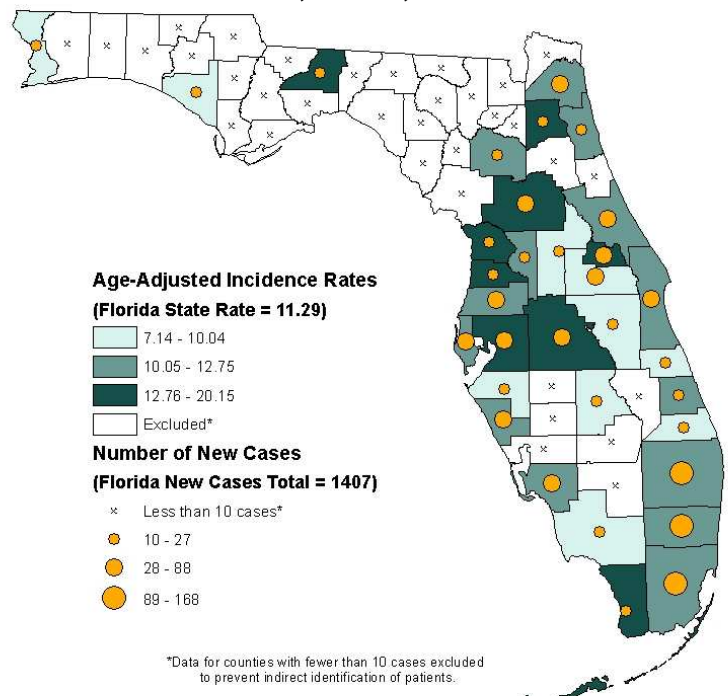
- Early-stage cancer is defined in this report as cancer that is localized to one part or organ of the body. Advanced-stage cancer is defined as cancer that has spread to other organs or throughout the body beyond the organ of cancer origin.
- In the U.S. the five-year survival rate of ovarian cancer diagnosed at an early stage is nearly 92%, but only 15% of ovarian cancer cases in the U.S. are diagnosed at an early stage.
- Of all Florida ovarian cancer cases, 76.6% were diagnosed at an advanced stage, 13.4% were diagnosed at an early stage, and 10.0% were reported without stage information (Figure 4).
- The percentage of cases with an advanced-stage diagnosis was higher among whites compared to blacks.
- The percentage of cases with an advanced-stage diagnosis was 17% higher in 2009 (76.5%) compared to 1981 (65.3%).

**Figure 4: Percentage of Ovarian Cancer by Stage at Diagnosis, Florida, 2009**



- In 2009, three of 67 counties (4.5%) in Florida had more than 89 new cases of ovarian cancer (Figure 5).
- In 2009, nine of 67 counties (13.4%) had incidence rates greater than 12.76 cases per 100,000 females (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Ovarian Cancer Incidence Rates and New Cases, Florida, 2009**



For additional information on this report, please contact the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Epidemiology at 850.245.4401, or visit our website at: <http://www.FloridasHealth.com/diseases-and-conditions/cancer/cancer-registry/index.html>