

Melanoma in Florida, 2011

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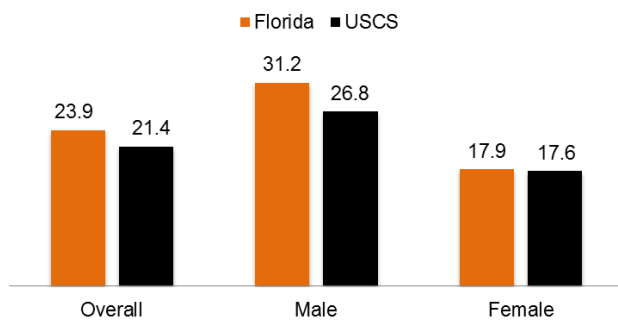
Skin cancer is defined as cancer that forms in the tissues of the skin. Although melanomas account for only a small percentage of skin cancer, they are more likely than other types of skin cancer to spread to other parts of the body, and account for more than 9,700 of the nearly 13,000 skin cancer deaths each year¹. The main risk factor for most melanomas is exposure to sunlight (ultraviolet radiation). Other risk factors include having had at least one severe, blistering sunburn, skin that burns easily, family history, certain medical conditions or medicines that make your skin more sensitive to the sun or suppress the immune system, and exposure to/use of sunlamps and tanning booths. Skin cancer risk is greatly increased by using sunlamps and tanning booths before age 30.²

This report presents incidence data on melanoma among whites in Florida, as melanoma in other races accounted for less than 5% of all new cases in 2011. Incidence data are obtained from the Florida Department of Health's 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 2010 United States Cancer Statistics (USCS).

Incidence

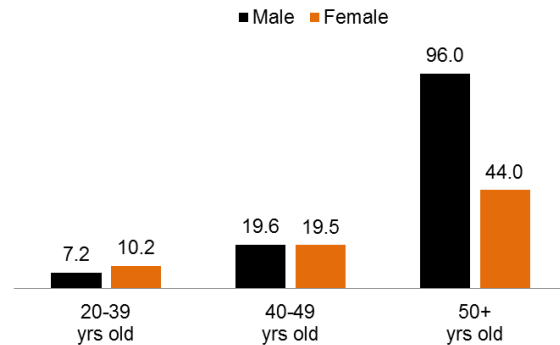
- In 2011, a total of 4,928 new melanoma cases were diagnosed in white Floridians.
- The age-adjusted incidence rate was 23.9 per 100,000 white population (Figure 1).
- Among whites in Florida, the incidence rate for males was 74.3% greater than the incidence rate for females (Figure 1).
- Florida incidence rates for white males and females were 16.4% and 1.7% higher, respectively, than the comparable USCS rates (Figure 1).

Figure 1: 2011 Florida vs. 2010 USCS Incidence Rates³ Among Whites, Overall and by Gender



- Incidence rates increased with increasing age (Figure 2).
- Among 20- to 39-year-olds, white females had a 41.7% higher incidence rate than white males; among those greater than 50 years old, white males had a 118.2% higher incidence rate than white females (Figure 2).

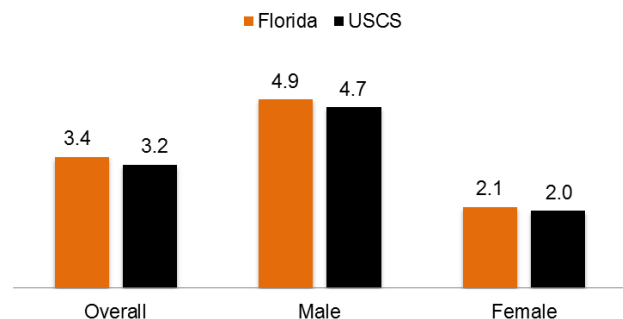
Figure 2: Florida Age-Specific Incidence Rates³ Among Whites, by Gender, 2011



Mortality

- In 2011, there were 741 white Floridians who died of melanoma.
- The overall age-adjusted mortality rate was 3.4 per 100,000 white population (Figure 3).
- Among Floridians, the mortality rate for white males was 2.3 times the mortality rate of white females (Figure 3).
- Mortality rates increased with increasing age.

Figure 3: 2011 Florida vs. 2010 USCS Mortality Rates³ Among Whites, Overall and by Gender



¹Source: <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancercauses/sunanduvexposure/skin-cancer-facts>

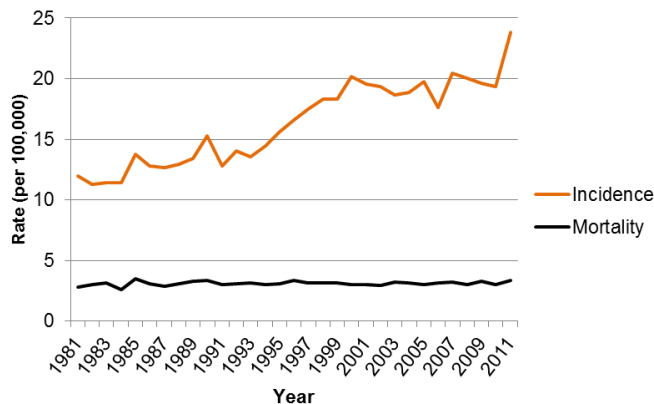
²Source: <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk/skin/page5>

³Rates expressed per 100,000 population

Time Trends of Incidence and Mortality, 1981 to 2011

- The incidence rate has nearly doubled since 1981, from 12.0 new cases per 100,000 to 23.9 new cases per 100,000 (Figure 4).
- The mortality rate has increased by 21.4% since 1981, from 2.8 deaths per 100,000 to 3.4 deaths per 100,000 (Figure 4).

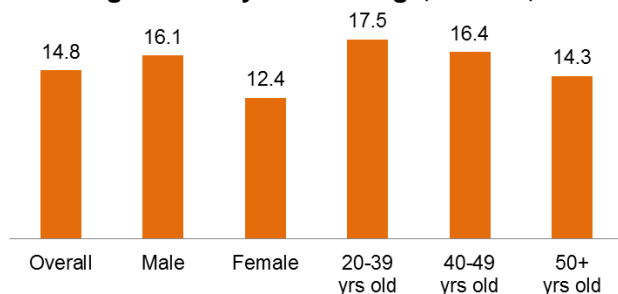
Figure 4: Age-Adjusted Incidence and Mortality Rates for Melanoma Among Whites, Florida, 1981-2011



Stage at Diagnosis

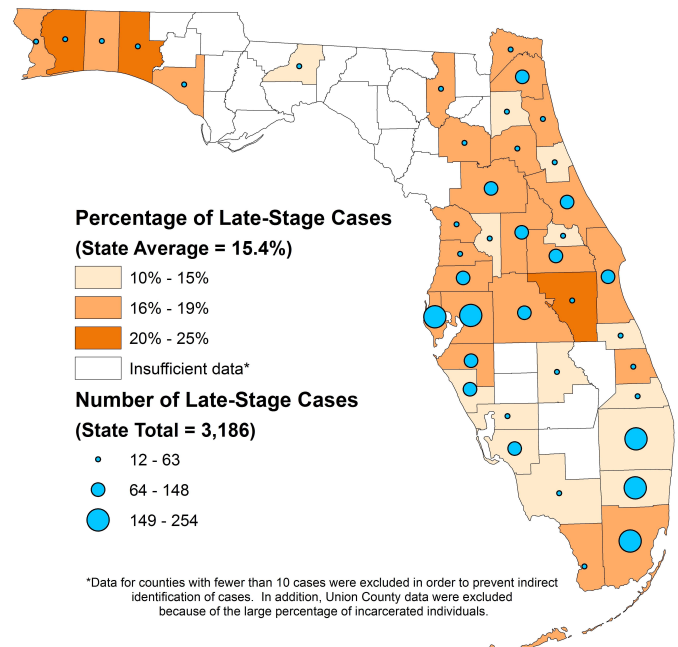
- Late-stage cancer is defined as cancer that has spread to other organs or throughout the body beyond the organ of cancer origin.
- Among whites in Florida, males had a higher percentage of late-stage melanoma diagnoses than females (Figure 5). Among age groups, younger white Floridians had a higher percentage of late-stage melanoma diagnoses than older white Floridians (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Percentage of Late-Stage Melanoma Among Whites by Sex and Age, Florida, 2011



- Three counties in Florida (Santa Rosa, Walton, and Osceola) had more than 20% of melanoma cases diagnosed at a late stage between 2007 and 2011 (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Prevalence of Late-Stage Melanoma in Florida Among Whites, 2007-2011



Skin Protection

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends easy options for protection from UV radiation:

- Stay in the shade, especially during midday hours.
- Wear clothing that covers your arms and legs.
- Wear a hat with a wide brim to shade your face, head, ears, and neck.
- Use sunscreen with sun protection factor (SPF) 15 or higher, and both UVA and UVB protection.
- Avoid indoor tanning.

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.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/cancer/cancer-registry/index.html>

For additional information on melanoma, please visit the Florida Department of Health, Comprehensive Cancer Control Program's website at:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/cancer/cancer-control-florida.html>