Cervical Cancer in Florida, 2006

Bureau of Epidemiology

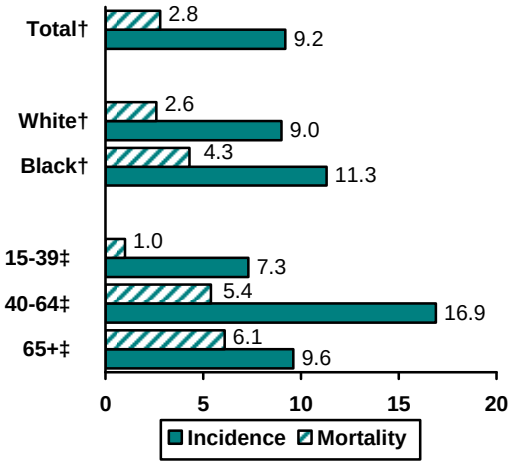
Cervical cancer begins in the cells of the cervix, an organ that connects the uterus and the vagina. Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is the primary risk factor for cervical cancer. Studies also suggest that low socio-economic status, weakened immune system, multiple sexual partners, chlamydia infection, smoking, and long term use of birth control pills are associated with cervical cancer.

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). Cervical cancer screening data are obtained from the 2006 Florida Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey.

Incidence

- In 2006, 907 new cases of cervical cancer were diagnosed in Florida.
- The age-adjusted incidence rate was 9.2 per 100,000 population, which was higher than the SEER-17 rate (8.0 per 100,000).

Figure 1. Age-Adjusted† and Age-Specific‡ Incidence and Mortality Rates of Cervical Cancer, Florida, FCDS, 2006



(1) Florida Department of Vital Statistics

- The age-specific incidence rate among females in the 40-64 age group was higher than the rates among those in the 15-39 as well as the 65 and older age groups.
- Age-adjusted incidence rates did not vary by race groups.
- Among white females, the Florida age-adjusted incidence rate (9.0 per 100,000) was higher than the comparable SEER-17 rate (7.9 per 100,000).

Mortality

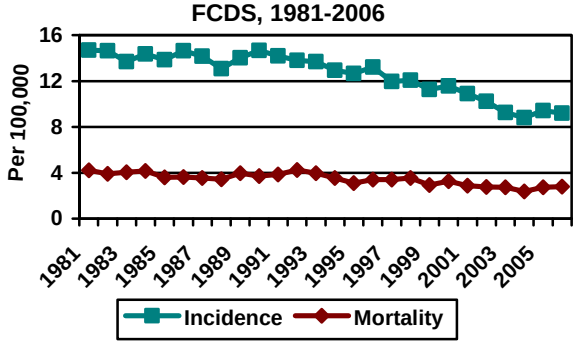
- In 2006, 304 Floridians died of cervical cancer.
- The age-adjusted mortality rate was 2.8 per 100,000 population, which was higher than the SEER-17 rate (2.4 per 100,000).
- More cervical cancer patients under age 65 (196) died than those aged 65 and older (108).
- On average, a patient who died from cervical cancer lost 25.4 potential years of life, the highest loss of all major cancers.
- Black females (4.3 per 100,000) had a higher age-adjusted mortality rate than white females (2.6 per 100,000).

Trends

- The 2006 incidence rate (9.2 per 100,000) was 37% lower compared to the rate in 1981 (14.7 per 100,000).
- The 2006 mortality rate (2.8 per 100,000) was 33% lower compared to the rate in 1981 (4.2 per 100,000).

- Blacks showed a greater decline in both incidence and mortality rates, compared to whites in 2006.

Figure 2. Age-Adjusted Incidence and Mortality for Cervical Cancer, Florida, FCDS, 1981-2006



Stage at Diagnosis

- The prognosis of cancer varies significantly by the stage when the cancer is diagnosed.

Table 1. Percentage of Cervical Cancer by Stage at Diagnosis, Florida, FCDS, 2006

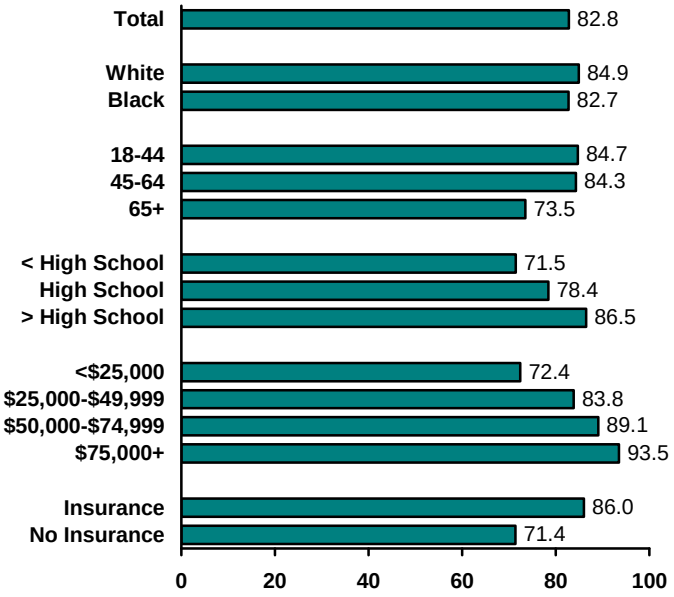
	Early	Advanced	Unknown
Total	**44.0**	**46.9**	**9.2**
White	46.2	45.5	8.3
Black	35.2	52.8	11.9

- The five-year survival rate is between 96% and 99% for cancer diagnosed at an early stage, but drops to 15%-20% for cancer diagnosed at a late stage.
- The percentage of cancer diagnosed at an advanced stage was higher among blacks (52.8%) compared to whites (45.5%).
- The percentage of cancer diagnosed without a stage decreased from 27.8% in 1981 to 9.2% in 2006; during the same time span, the percentage of cancer diagnosed at an advanced stage increased from 28.6% to 46.9%.
- The percentage of cancer cases diagnosed at an early stage remained at about 44%.

Cancer Screening

- In Florida in 2006, 82.8% of females aged 18 years and older had a Papanicolau (Pap) smear test within the past three years.
- The prevalence of screening was higher among whites compared to blacks.
- The prevalence of screening was lower among females who are 65 years of age and older, females with household income less than $25,000, and females without health insurance.

Figure 3. Prevalence of Receiving Pap Smear Test Among Females Age 18+ and Older in the Past Three Years, Florida, BRFSS (1), 2006



(1) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

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 on cancers in Florida, please visit our Florida Cancer Data System website at: http://www.fcds.med.miami.edu/.