

# Lung Cancer in Florida, 2009

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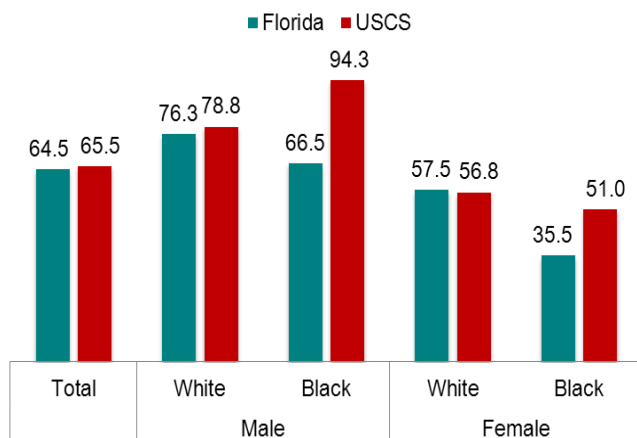
Lung cancer forms in tissues of the lung, usually in the cells lining air passages. Lung cancer was the most commonly diagnosed cancer and responsible for the most number of cancer-related deaths in Florida during 2009. Tobacco smoking (which includes cigarette, cigar, and pipe smoking) is the most important risk factor for lung cancer, and is responsible for 90% of lung cancer cases in men and about 80% of lung cancer cases in women. There is no evidence that smoking low tar cigarettes reduces the risk of lung cancer. Other risk factors include secondhand smoke, radon exposure, air pollution, workplace exposures (such as asbestos or arsenic), and a family history of lung cancer. Among heavy smokers, taking beta carotene supplements (pills) increases the risk of lung cancer, especially in smokers who smoke one or more packs per day.

This report presents incidence data on lung cancer 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 2009 United States Cancer Statistics (USCS).

## Incidence

- In 2009, 16,181 new lung cancer cases were diagnosed in Florida.
- The age-adjusted incidence rate in Florida was 64.5 per 100,000 population, which was lower than the USCS rate (65.5 per 100,000).

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

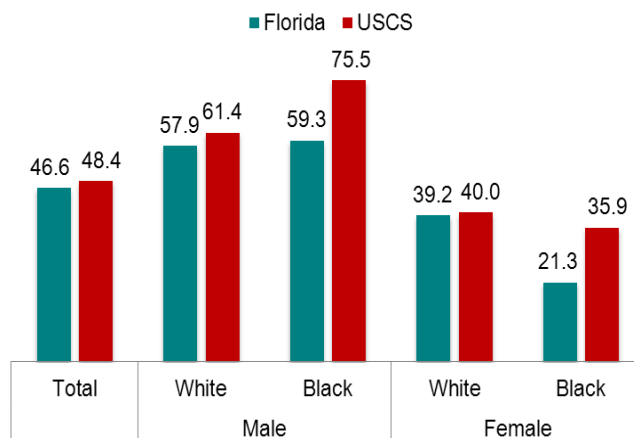


- Incidence rates increased with increasing age.
- In 2009, Florida incidence rates were higher among males than among females overall (Figure 1).
- In 2009, Florida incidence rates were higher among whites than among blacks (Figure 1).
- In 2009, among all gender and racial groups in Florida, only white females had an incidence rate higher than the USCS rate (Figure 1).

## Mortality

- In 2009, 11,871 people died of lung cancer in Florida.
- The age-adjusted mortality rate in Florida was 46.6 per 100,000 population, which was lower than the USCS rate (48.4 per 100,000).

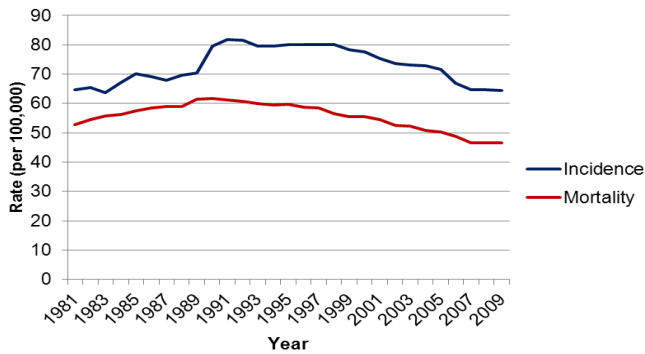
**Figure 2: Florida vs. USCS Mortality Rates (per 100,000) by Gender and Race, 2009**



- Mortality rates increased with increasing age.
- In 2009, Florida mortality rates were higher among males than among females overall (Figure 2).
- In 2009, Florida mortality rates were higher among black males than white males, while rates were higher among white females than black females (Figure 2).
- In 2009, mortality rates in Florida were lower than the USCS rate overall and for all gender and racial groups (Figure 2).

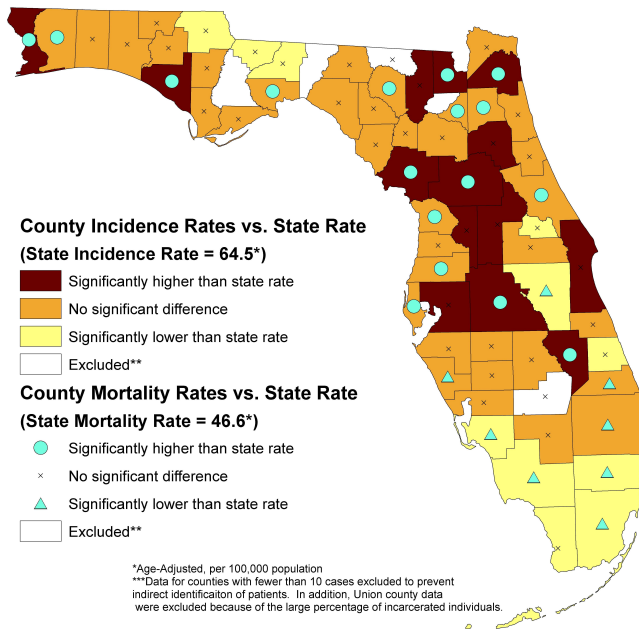
## Trends in Incidence and Mortality

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



- The 2009 incidence rate (64.5 per 100,000) was nearly identical to the 1981 rate (64.7 per 100,000, Figure 3).
- The incidence rate peaked in 1991 (81.9 per 100,000); since 1991, the incidence rate has dropped by 21.2% (Figure 3).
- The 2009 mortality rate (46.6 per 100,000) was 11.7% lower than the rate in 1981 (52.7 per 100,000).

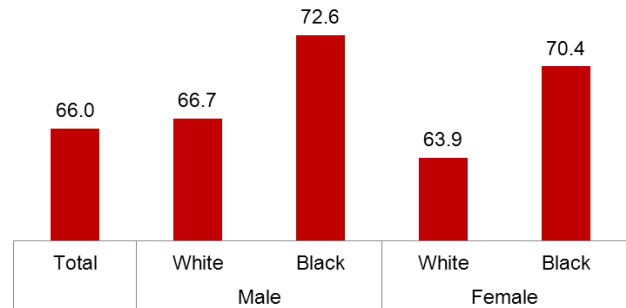
**Figure 4: Incidence and Mortality Rates of Lung Cancer, County vs. State Rate, Florida, 2009**



- In 2009, 8 of 67 counties in Florida had incidence and mortality rates significantly higher than the state rates (Figure 4).
- In 2009, 5 of 67 counties in Florida had incidence and mortality rates significantly lower than the state rates (Figure 4).

## Stage at Diagnosis

**Figure 5: Percentage of Advanced Stage Lung Cancer Cases, by Gender and Race, Florida, 2009**



- 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 origin.
- Of all Florida lung cancer cases in 2009, 66.0% were diagnosed at an advanced stage (Figure 5), 20.9% were diagnosed at an early stage, and 13.1% were reported without stage information.
- The percentage of cases with an advanced-stage diagnosis was greater among males than females and among blacks than whites, with black males having the highest percentage (72.6%, Figure 5).

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 lung cancer, 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>