



Ovarian Cancer in Florida, 2005

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: abdominal discomfort and/or pain (gas, indigestion, pressure, swelling, bloating, cramps); nausea; diarrhea; constipation; frequent urination; loss of appetite; feeling of fullness even after a light meal; weight gain or loss; and abnormal bleeding from the vagina. Risk for all forms of ovarian cancer begin to increase as a woman ages. A woman's chance of developing ovarian cancer also increases if a close relative has had the disease. Women may inherit genes that substantially increase their risk, and women with a history of breast, endometrial, or colon cancer are also at an increased risk for ovarian cancer. Because the symptoms of ovarian cancer are subtle and mimic other illnesses, they often go overlooked or misinterpreted and may lead to 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 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 2005, 1,482 new ovarian cancer cases were diagnosed among females.
- The age-adjusted incidence rate was 12.5 per 100,000 females, which was similar to the SEER rate (12.6 per 100,000 females).

Table 1. Age-Adjusted and Age-Specific* (per 100,000) Incidence Rates of Ovarian Cancer, Florida, 2005

	Florida	SEER
Total	12.5	12.6
0-14 *	^	N/A
15-39 *	3.0	N/A
40-64 *	19.4	N/A
65+ *	46.6	N/A
Black	8.6	9.9
White	13.1	13.3
^ Data Suppressed		

- The incidence rate was higher among females age 65 and older than in females less than 65 years of age.
- The rate was higher among whites compared to blacks.
- The rates among both race groups in Florida were similar to SEER rates.

Mortality

- In 2005, 971 females died of ovarian cancer.
- The age-adjusted mortality rate in Florida was 7.5 per 100,000 females, which was lower than the U.S. mortality rate (8.6 per 100,000 females).
- The mortality rate was higher among females age 65 and older than in females less than 65 years of age.

Table 2. Age-Adjusted and Age-Specific* (per 100,000) Mortality Rates of Ovarian Cancer, Florida, 2005

	Florida	U.S.
Total	7.5	8.6
0-14 *	^	N/A
15-39 *	^	N/A
40-64 *	10.3	N/A
65+ *	37.1	N/A
Black	5.8	7.3
White	7.7	8.9
^ Data Suppressed		

- No significant racial differences in Florida mortality rates were observed.
- The mortality rate among whites in Florida (7.7 per 100,000 females) was lower than the rates among their U.S. counterparts (8.9 per 100,000 females).

Trends in Incidence and Mortality

- The 2005 incidence rate (12.5 per 100,000 females) decreased by 20% compared to the rate in 1981 (15.7 per 100,000), due to 26% decline between 2000 and 2005.
- The 2005 mortality rate (7.5 per 100,000) decreased by 15% compared to the rate in 1981 (8.8 per 100,000).

and 13.5% were reported without stage information.

- The percentage of cases with an advanced-stage diagnosis was greater among blacks compared to whites.
- The percentage of cases with an advanced-stage diagnosis increased by 14% from 65.3% in 1981 to 74.6% in 2005.

Figure 1. Age-Adjusted Incidence and Mortality Rates of Ovarian Cancer, Florida, 1981-2005

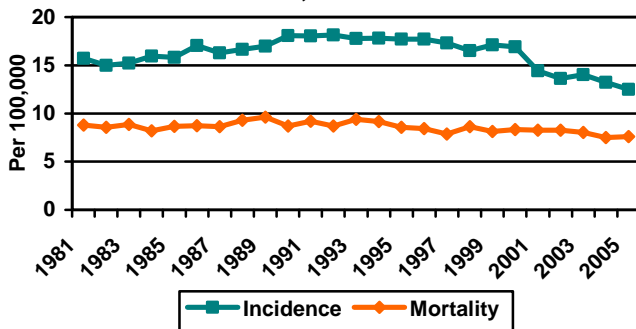


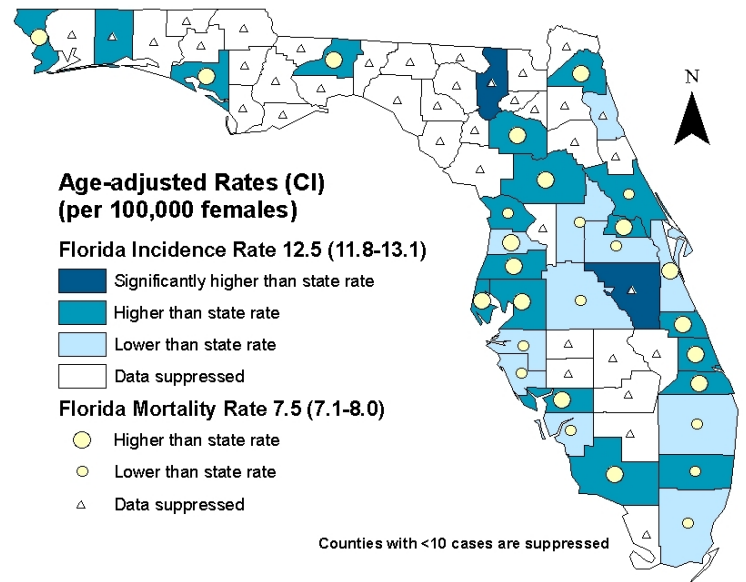
Table 3. Percentage of Ovarian Cancer by Stage at Diagnosis, Florida, 2005

	Early	Advanced	Unknown
Total	11.9	74.6	13.5
Black	11.0	78.0	11.0
White	12.0	74.5	13.5

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 93%, but only 19% of ovarian cancer cases are diagnosed at an early stage.
- Of all Florida ovarian cancer cases, 74.6% were diagnosed at an advanced stage, 11.9% were diagnosed at an early stage,

Figure 2. Age-adjusted Incidence and Mortality Rates of Ovarian Cancer, Florida, 2005



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 source, please refer to 'Sources of Cancer Data' available at: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/cancer/CancerIndex.htm.

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