



Ovarian Cancer in Florida, 2006

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 increases 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 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 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 2006, 1,478 new ovarian cancer cases were diagnosed in Florida.
- The age-adjusted incidence rate was 12.2 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, 2006

	Florida	SEER
Total	12.2	12.6
0-14 *	^	N/A
15-39 *	3.0	N/A
40-64 *	19.4	N/A
65+ *	43.7	N/A
Black	9.1	9.1
White	12.5	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 2006, 955 females died of ovarian cancer.
- The age-adjusted mortality rate in Florida was 7.1 per 100,000 females, which was lower than the U.S. mortality rate (8.5 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, 2006

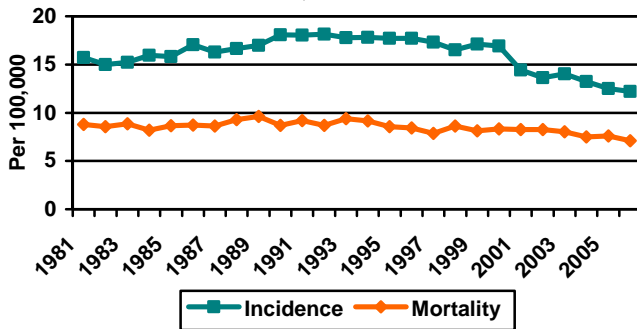
	Florida	U.S.
Total	7.1	8.5
0-14 *	^	N/A
15-39 *	0.3	N/A
40-64 *	9.1	N/A
65+ *	37.1	N/A
Black	5.8	6.9
White	7.4	8.9
^ Data Suppressed		

- Mortality rates did not differ significantly by race.
- The mortality rate among whites in Florida (7.4 per 100,000 females) was statistically significantly lower than the rates among their U.S. counterparts (8.9 per 100,000 females).

Trends in Incidence and Mortality

- The 2006 incidence rate (12.2 per 100,000 females) was 22% lower than the rate in 1981 (15.7 per 100,000), due to 26% decline between 2000 and 2005.
- The 2006 mortality rate (7.1 per 100,000) was 19% lower than the rate in 1981 (8.8 per 100,000).

Figure 1. Age-Adjusted Incidence and Mortality Rates of Ovarian Cancer, Florida, 1981-2006



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 in the U.S. are diagnosed at an early stage.
- Of all Florida ovarian cancer cases, 75.8% were diagnosed at an advanced stage,

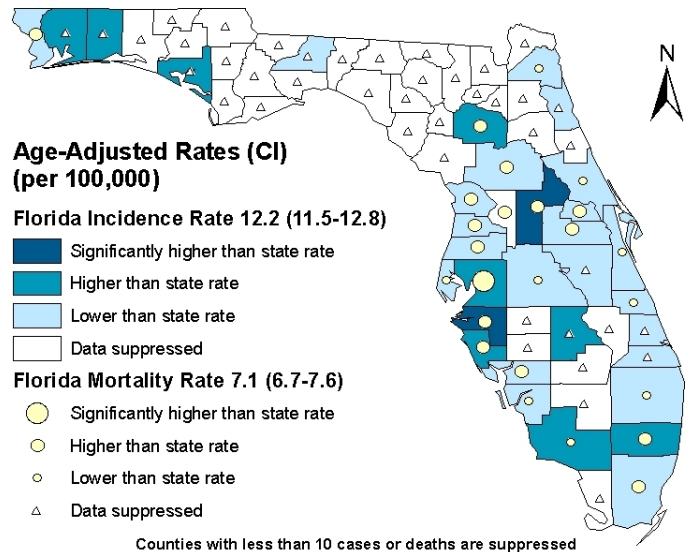
11.6% were diagnosed at an early stage, and 17.1% were reported without stage information.

- 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 16% higher in 2006 (75.8%) compared to 1981 (65.3%).

Table 3. Percentage of Ovarian Cancer by Stage at Diagnosis, Florida, 2006

	Early	Advanced	Unknown
Total	11.6	75.8	12.5
Black	11.1	71.8	17.1
White	11.7	76.3	11.9

Figure 2. Age-Adjusted Incidence and Mortality Rates of Ovarian Cancer by County, Florida, 2006



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>.