



**Florida Cancer Control
& Research Advisory Council**

THE STATE OF CANCER *in* FLORIDA



**Community
Outreach
Efforts &
Education**



Introduction

The Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council (also called CCRAB) was legislatively chartered in 1979 to advise the Florida Legislature, Florida Board of Governors, and the Florida Surgeon General on ways to reduce the burden of cancer in the state (Florida Statute §1004.435). CCRAB serves as a steering body for statewide cancer prevention and control. CCRAB closely studies and monitors Florida's cancer burden and recommends changes in policies, systems, and environments that lead to improved prevention, earliest detection, highest quality treatment, and survivorship from cancer.

Every five years, CCRAB leads the consensus process for producing a Florida Cancer Plan. The Plan contains goals, objectives, and strategies for all state cancer control stakeholders to reduce Florida's cancer burden and promote health equity for all Floridians. The current Florida Cancer Plan can be accessed at www.ccrab.org/cancer-plan.

Every year, CCRAB also publishes an Annual Report on Cancer in Florida that includes latest data and trends worth noting for data-driven policy decisions. CCRAB is a resource for cancer information in the State of Florida and can be reached at www.ccrab.org.



Cancer Screenings Save Lives

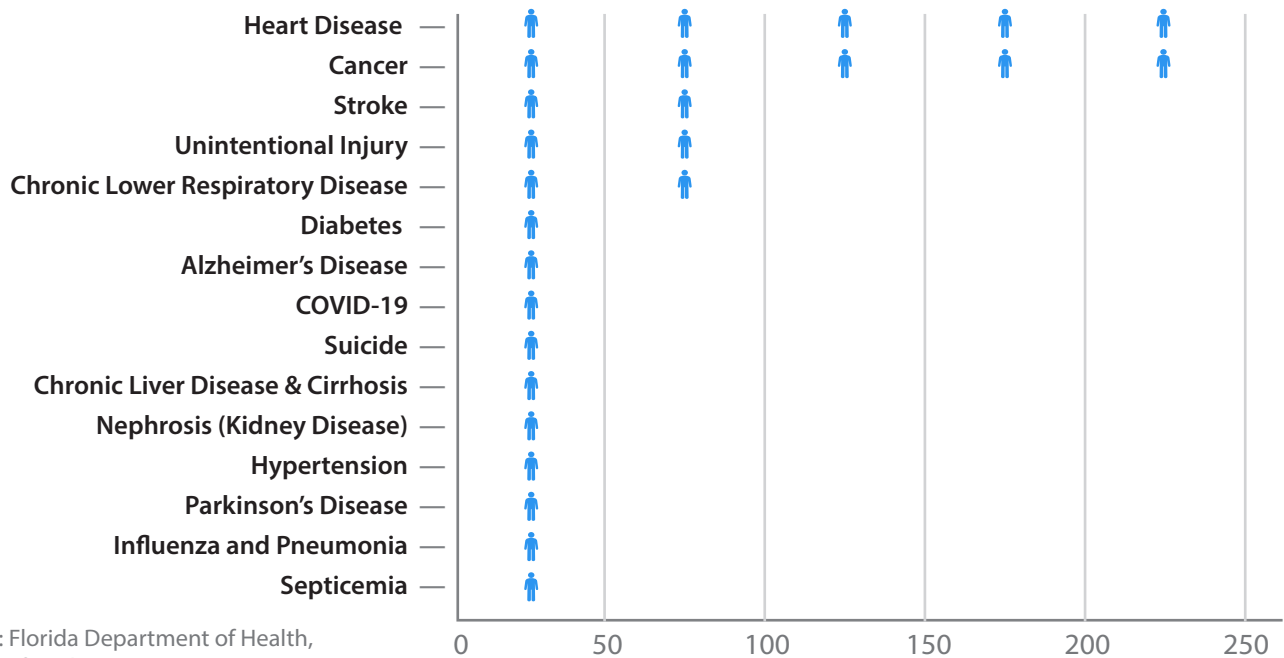
There is now overwhelming evidence that cancer screenings save lives. Importantly, lung cancer screening, followed by colorectal cancer screening, and breast and cervical screenings have demonstrated remarkable numbers of lives saved if everyone who is eligible to undergo routine testing received these tests per guidelines. As such, the state's investments in comprehensive breast and cervical screening and early detection programs is exemplary. Increased financial support for lung cancer screening and colorectal cancer screening would further accelerate cancer prevention and early detection efforts statewide, especially among rural and underserved communities.

Due to the onset of COVID-19 pandemic (2020), cancer screenings dropped significantly for all modalities including colonoscopy for colorectal cancer screening, mammogram for breast cancer screening, cervical cancer screening with Pap test or HPV test, or lung cancer screening with low dose CT to mention a few, as facilities and the public limited or delayed "non-urgent" procedures. Emerging data suggest there has been resumption of cancer screenings with notable uptick beyond pre-pandemic levels. National organizations and State entities continue to implement strategies to support health systems and educate the general public to increase resumption of screenings. For example, some health systems have increased use of evidence-based alternatives to colonoscopy screenings by offering home stool-based testing options (i.e., fecal immunochemical tests (FIT) or stool DNA tests (such as Cologuard), when appropriate). Furthermore, capacity and facilities to deliver these cancer screening continue to expand—thus, potentially reaching and benefiting all Floridians.

Leading Causes of Death in Florida

Cancer and heart disease are the two leading causes of death in Florida, far higher in incidence than all other causes of death including accidents, chronic lung diseases like emphysema, stroke, Alzheimer’s disease, influenza virus, and diabetes mellitus. A roadmap to ensure high quality cancer data for data-driven policymakers is presented in Goal 2 of the 2020-2025 Florida Cancer Plan. In 2021, COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death in Florida and dropped to eighth in 2023.

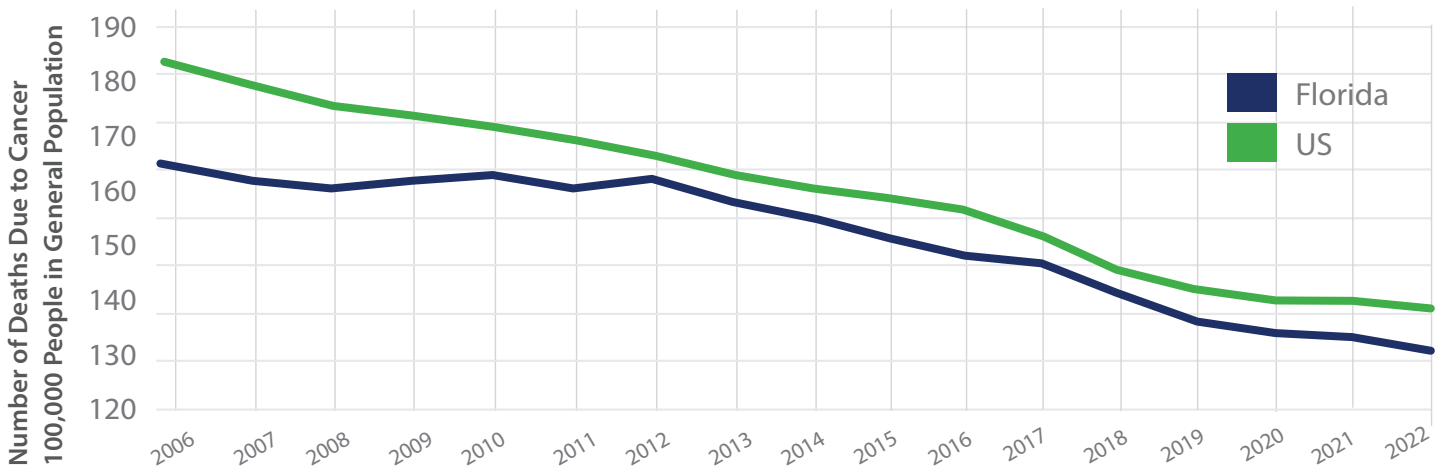
Florida Crude Death Rates per 100,000 - 2023



Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Cancer Mortality Rates in Florida versus the United States

The rate of death from cancer in Florida has steadily decreased over the last 10 years. This decline is also seen nationally. The reduction in Florida’s cancer death rate is chiefly due to strong efforts in tobacco prevention and cessation. As written in the Florida Cancer Plan, there are many more opportunities to further prevent and cease tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure (Goal 3, 2020-2025 Florida Cancer Plan), such as prohibiting tobacco smoking on Florida’s public beaches and parks. In 2022, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 105, which allows local governments to ban smoking on public beaches and parks. It’s up to local governments to take action. Improved access to cancer screening has also contributed to Florida’s reduction in cancer-related deaths through the earlier detection of cancer when curative intervention is possible (Goals 10-13, 2020-2025 Florida Cancer Plan). With advent of immuno-oncology agents, further reductions are expected in two of Florida’s most lethal cancers: lung cancer and melanoma. These new therapeutics are being developed in Florida with partial support from Florida’s Bankhead-Coley and James & Esther King Biomedical Research Programs (Goal 21, 2020-2025 Florida Cancer Plan).



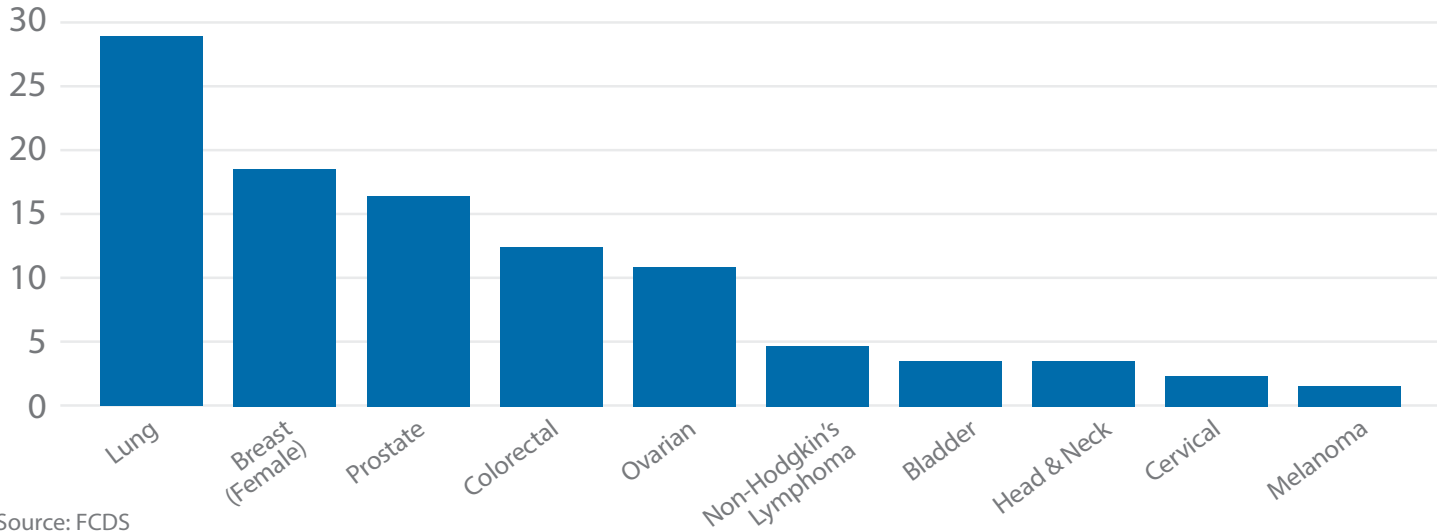
Source: FCDS and SEER, FCDS provisional 2022 cancer data as of 1/10/2025.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has urged caution when interpreting 2020 data. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted health services, leading to delays and reductions in cancer screening, diagnosis, and reporting to some central cancer registries. This may have contributed to the decline in new cancer cases for many sites in 2020.

Leading Causes of Cancer Mortality in Florida

Lung cancer, ovarian cancer, and colorectal cancers are three of the more lethal cancers in Florida. These cancers often present in late-stage when they have already spread to other sites of the body – also called metastatic disease. Treating metastatic cancer is one of the greatest challenges in oncology. Increased support for Florida’s Bankhead-Coley and James & Esther King Biomedical Research Programs are needed to move new treatments from Florida laboratories to Florida cancer clinics (Goal 21, 2020-2025 Florida Cancer Plan).

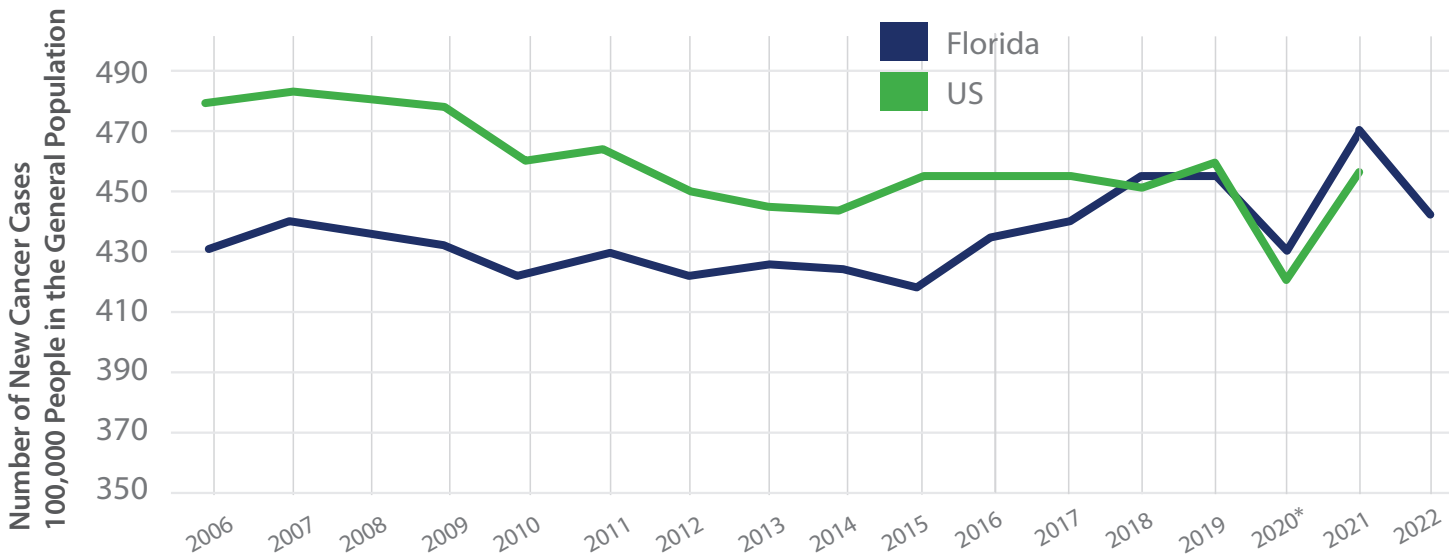
Cancer mortality by type per 100,000, 2021



Source: FCDS
FCDS provisional 2022 cancer data as of 1/10/2025.

Cancer Incidence in Florida vs. the United States

The incidence of cancer in Florida has steadily decreased in the last 10 years. The seemingly higher rates since 2016 are because of improved cancer case capture by Florida’s statewide cancer data and surveillance program, which developed new methods of capturing cancer cases in Florida’s outpatient clinics. As more cancer diagnostic tests and biopsies are being conducted outside of hospital settings where tumor registrars are primarily based, it is important to ascertain cancer cases in outpatient clinics. These new data better reflect Florida’s cancer burden and are supported by Goal 2 in the 2020-2025 Florida Cancer Plan.

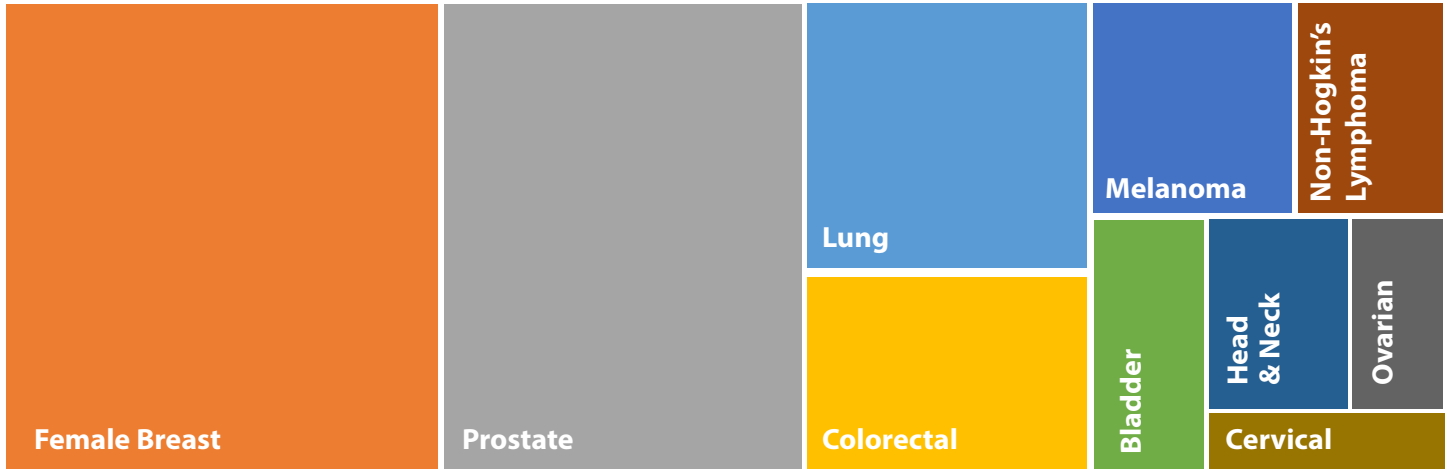


Source: FCDS
FCDS provisional 2022 cancer data as of 1/10/2025.

* The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has urged caution when interpreting 2020 data. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted health services, leading to delays and reductions in cancer screening, diagnosis, and reporting to some central cancer registries. This may have contributed to the decline in new cancer cases for many sites in 2020

Age-adjusted Cancer Incidence by Type in Florida

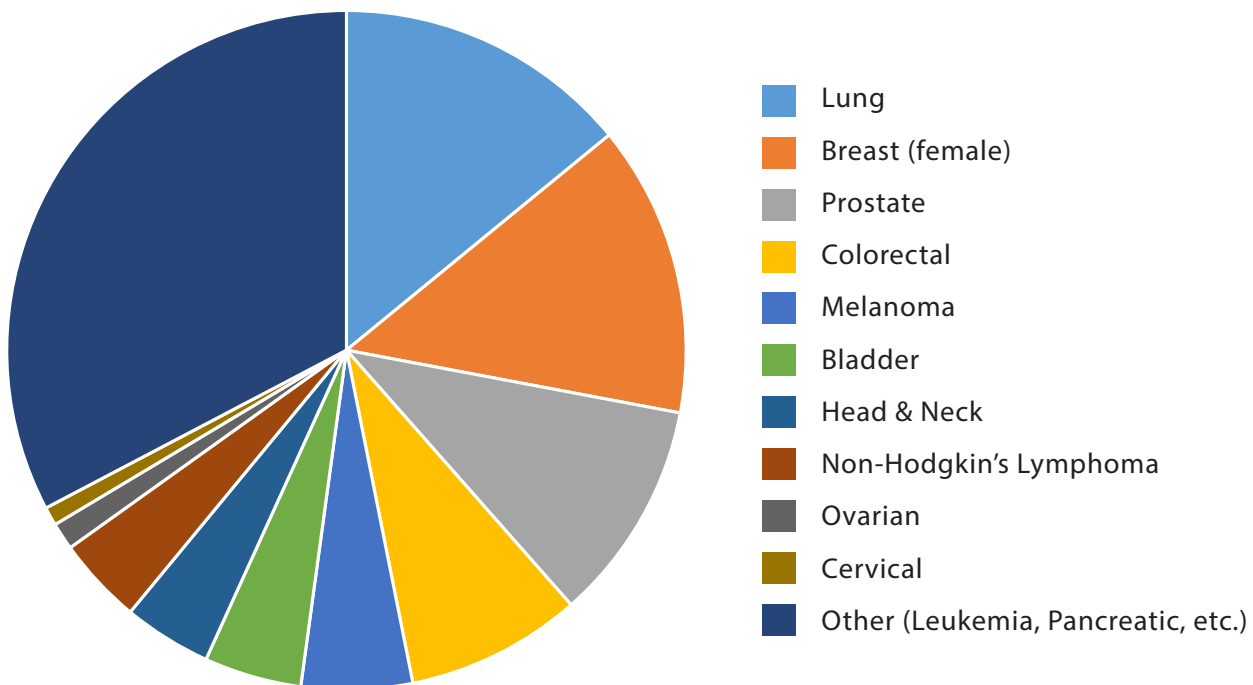
Breast cancer is the most highly incident cancer in Florida based on age-adjusted incidence, followed by prostate cancer, lung cancer, colorectal cancer, and melanoma. Breast cancer also shows the most persistent disparities in advanced stage diagnosis, with black women more likely to be diagnosed at advanced stage compared to white women. In the 2020-2025 Florida Cancer Plan, we aim to eliminate cervical cancer in the state through vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV) and early detection of pre-cancerous tissue (Goal 4), and eliminate cancer-causing hepatitis C virus (HCV) from our state through increased HCV screening and linkage to care (Goal 14).



Source: FCDS
FCDS provisional 2022 cancer data as of 1/10/2025.

Crude Cancer Incidence (Number) by Cancer Type

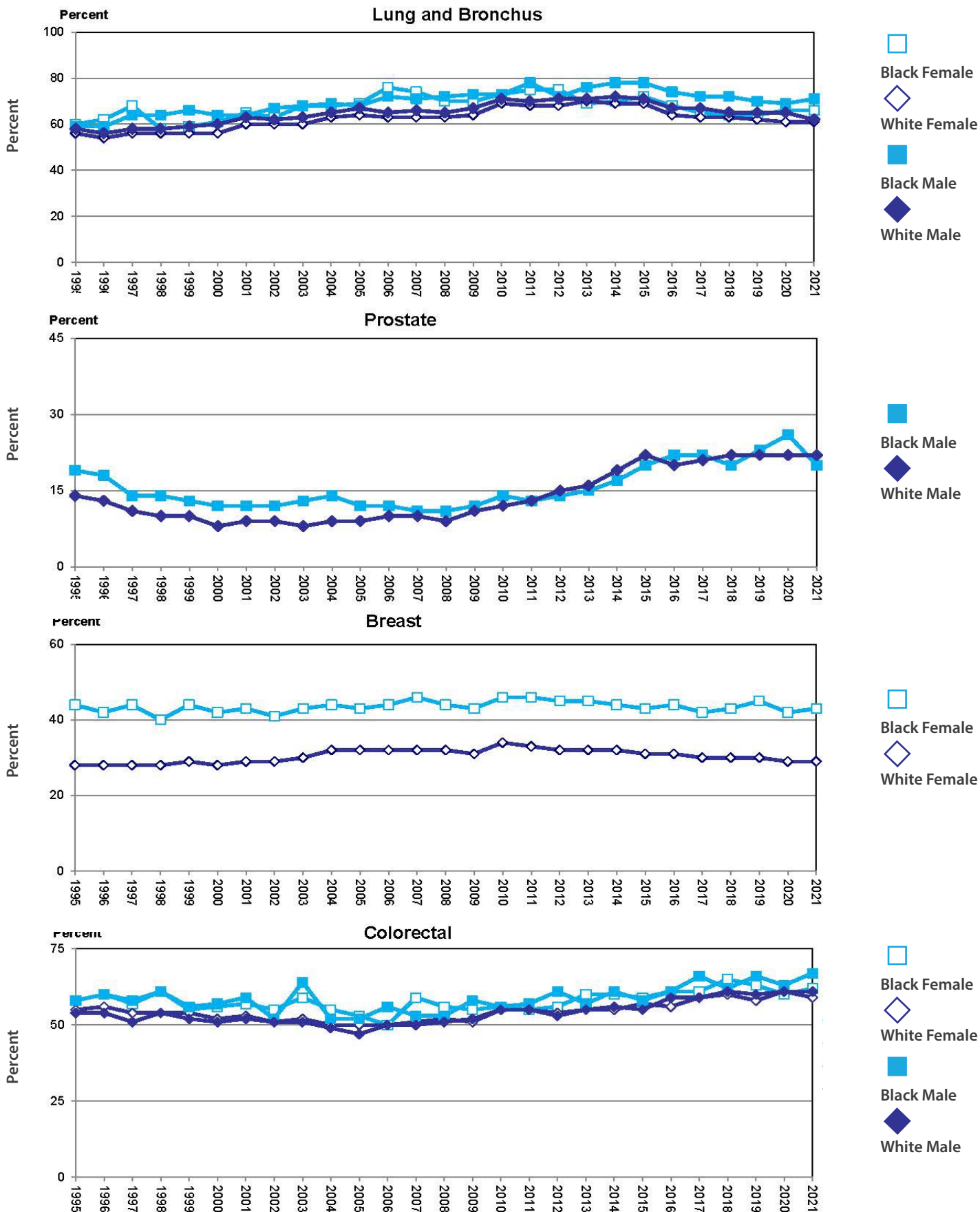
Every year, nearly 150,000 Floridians are diagnosed with cancer. In terms of crude number of cases, female breast cancer, prostate cancer, and lung cancer are the three most frequently diagnosed cancers in Florida, followed by colorectal cancer, melanoma, and bladder cancer.



Source: FCDS
FCDS provisional 2022 cancer data as of 1/10/2025.

Advanced Stage Cancer at Diagnosis by Sex and Race, 1995-2021

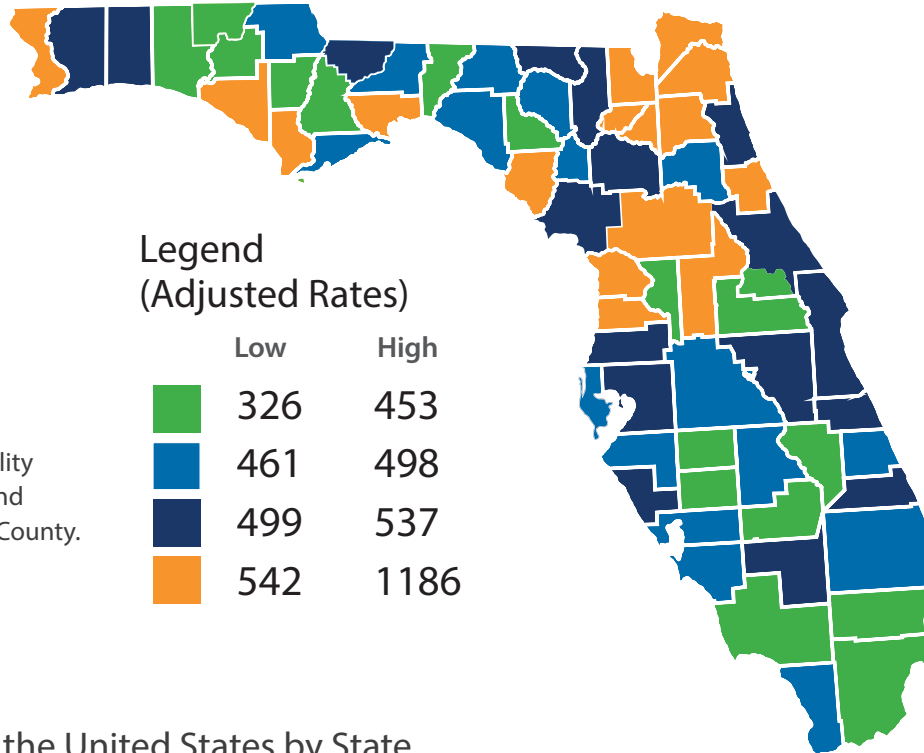
* Breast cancer shows the most persistent disparities in advanced stage diagnosis.



Cancer Incidence by Florida County

Age-adjusted cancer incidence is lower in metropolitan areas, such as counties in South Florida. In contrast, age-adjusted cancer incidence rates are higher in less populated Northern counties along the Interstate 75 corridor, in the Northeast corner of the state, and in the Northwest Panhandle area. These geographic differences demonstrate important health equity concerns for “rural” Floridians with respect to need for increased prevention efforts. Concerted efforts by local cancer stakeholders and the Regional Cancer Control Collaboratives are focused on improving early diagnosis and access to treatment to reduce mortality in these areas.

Cancer incidence rates per 100,000 Floridians For 2021

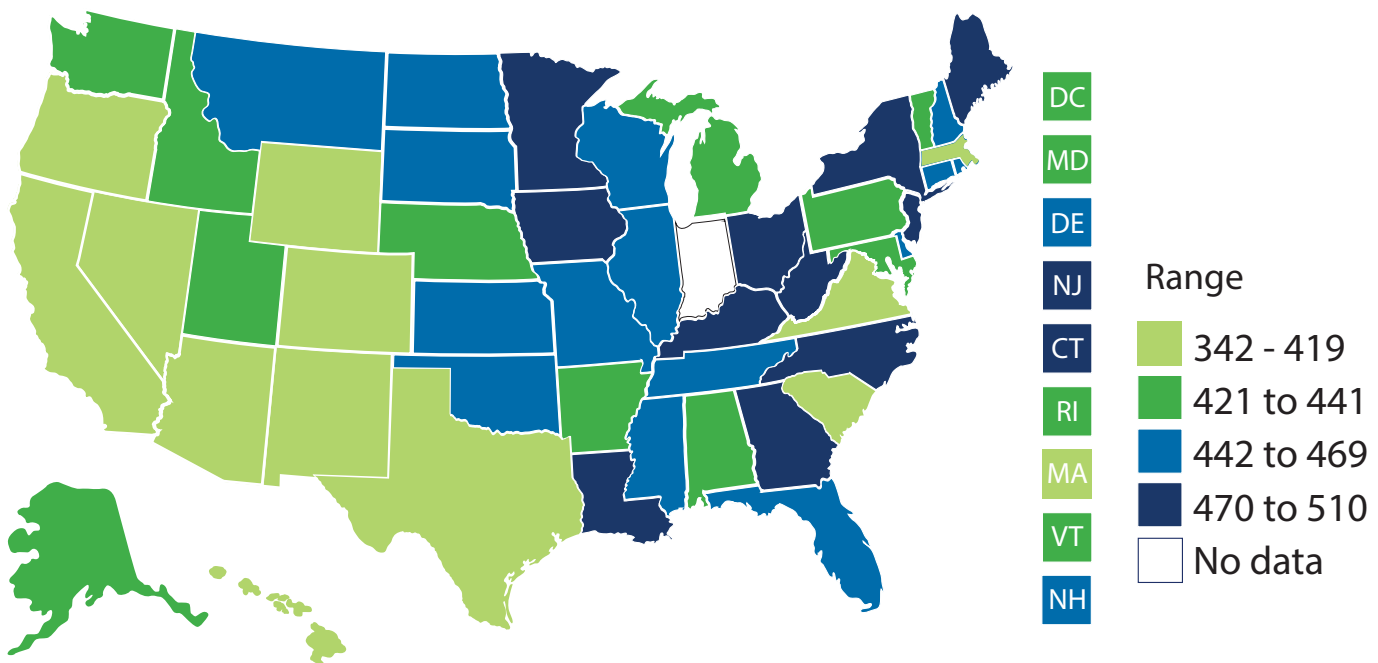


*Union County is the site of a facility that treats inmates with cancer and artificially skews the data for the County.

Source: FCDS

Rate of New Cancers in the United States by State

All types of cancer, all ages, all races/ethnicities, male and female, Rate per 100,000 people, 2021

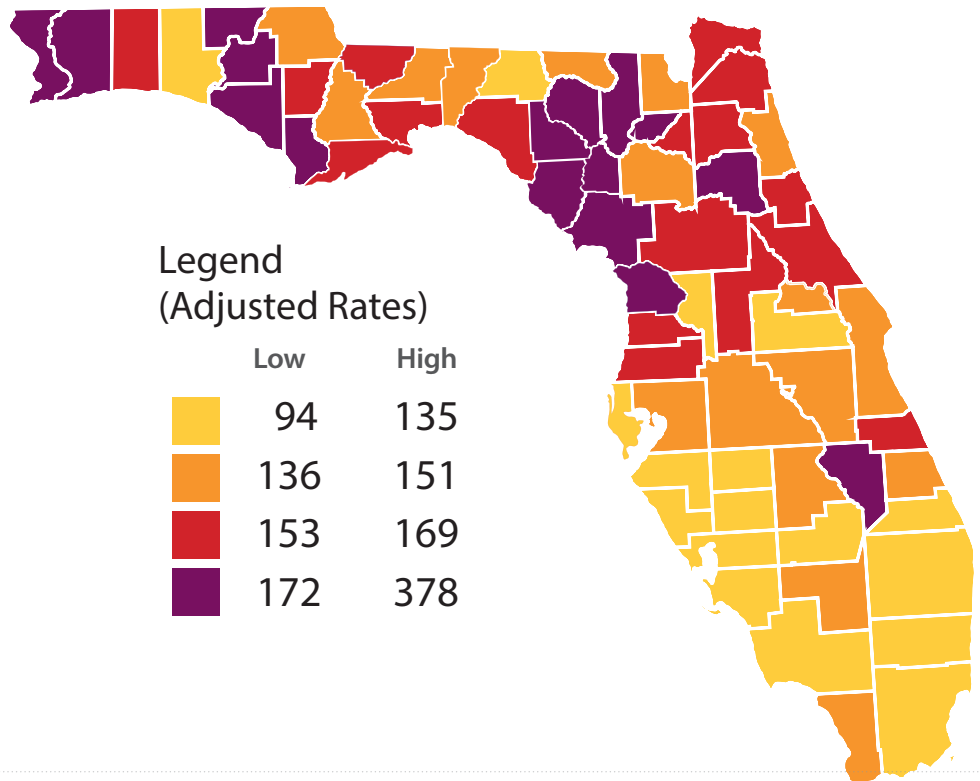


Source: CDC

Florida Map of Cancer Mortality by County

Deaths from cancer are lower in more populated regions such as counties in South Florida, but higher in less populated counties in the Florida Panhandle. These geographic differences demonstrate important health equity concerns for “rural” Floridians. Access to high quality cancer diagnostic tests and effective cancer treatments for all Floridians is Goal 15 in the 2020-2025 Florida Cancer Plan. Concerted efforts by local cancer stakeholders and the Regional Cancer Control Collaboratives are focused on improving early diagnosis and access to treatment to reduce mortality in these areas.

Age-adjusted cancer mortality rates per 100,000 For 2021



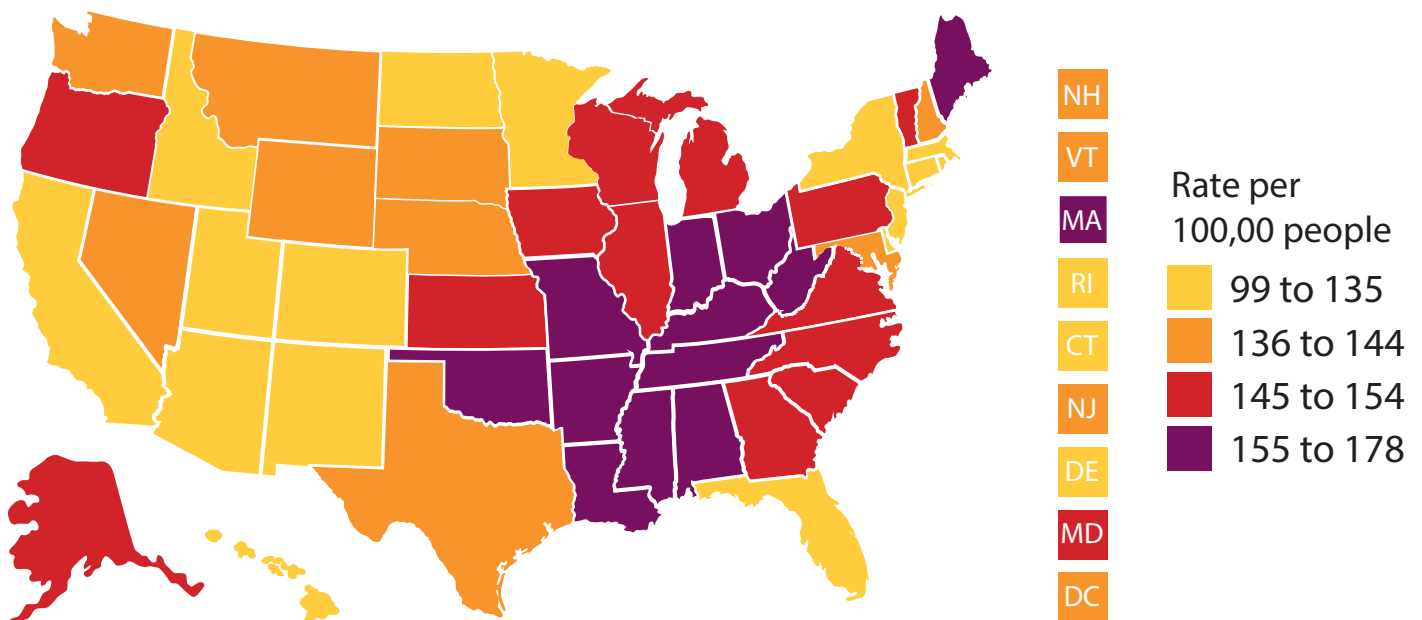
Source: FCDS

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US Map Cancer Mortality

Within the US, Florida is in a group of states with lower cancer mortality.

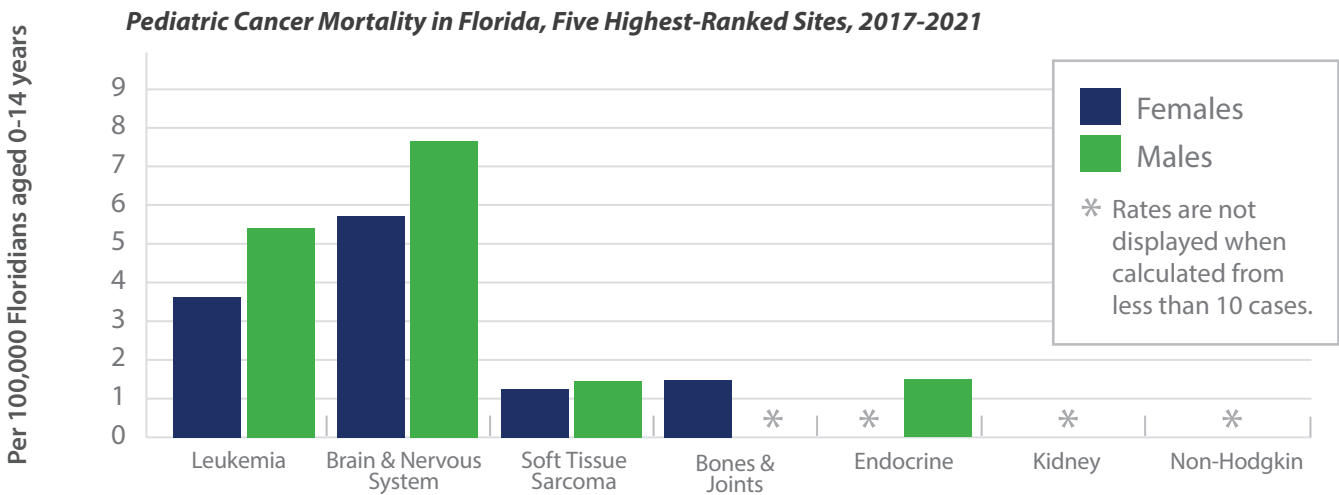
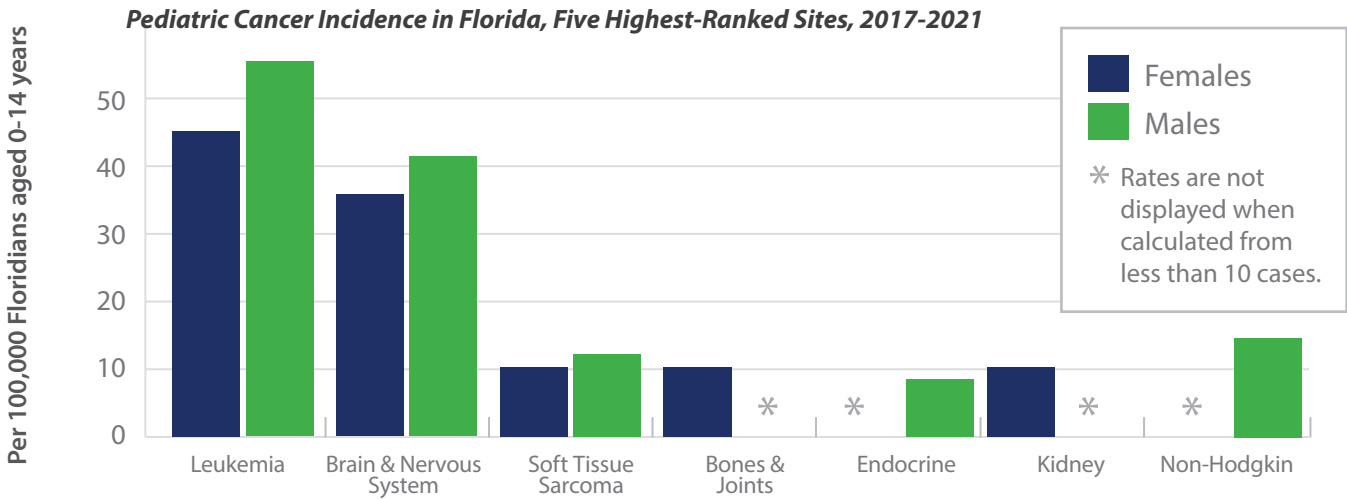
All types of cancer, all ages, all races/ethnicities, male and female, Rate per 100,000 people, 2022



Source: CDC

Pediatric Cancer in Florida

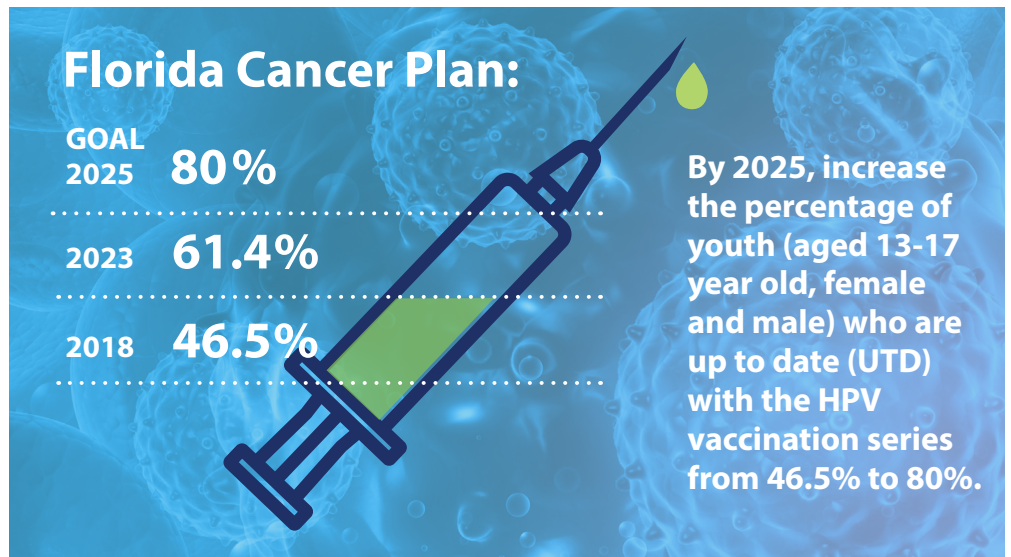
Cancers in Florida children were comparable with rates from previous years. Although the majority of our children achieved a good response to treatment for their cancers, relapsing and refractory cancer is still a problem. Furthermore, side effects from the toxicities of treatment are common. Safer and more effective treatments for pediatric cancers are urgently needed. For the first time in the state's history, the Florida Cancer Plan has a Childhood Cancers priority area with goals for high quality health care, survivorship, and research (Goals 18-20, 2020-2025 Florida Cancer Plan).



Source: FCDS

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccinations

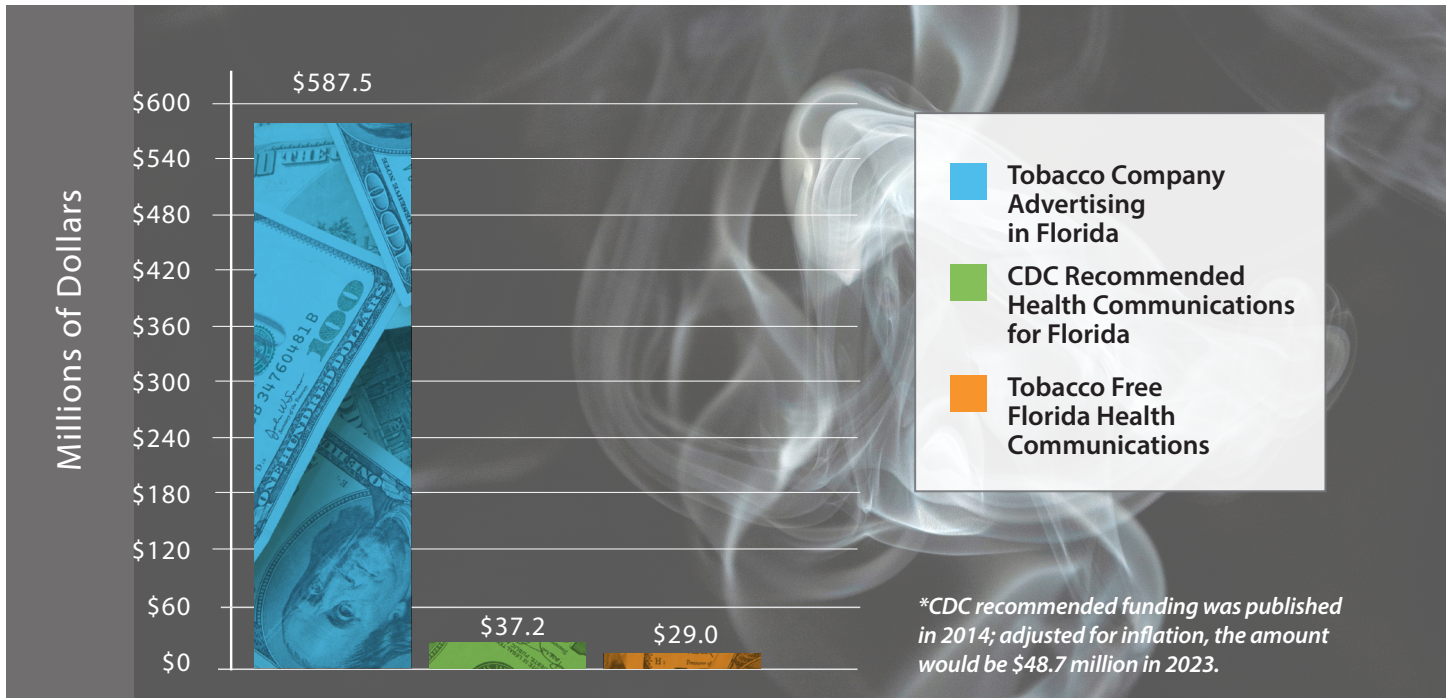
Several high-risk strains of HPV cause cancers of the anus, cervix, head & neck, penis, vagina and vulva in women and men. Through Goal 4 of the 2020-2025 Florida Cancer Plan, we aim to eliminate cervical cancer from Florida through vaccinations against HPV, earlier detection and treatment of lesions of the cervix, and surveillance. Furthermore, vaccinating against HPV will also help prevent many of the other HPV-related cancers in future generations of Floridians.



Source: CDC TeenVaxView

Annual Spending for Tobacco-Related Communications in Florida

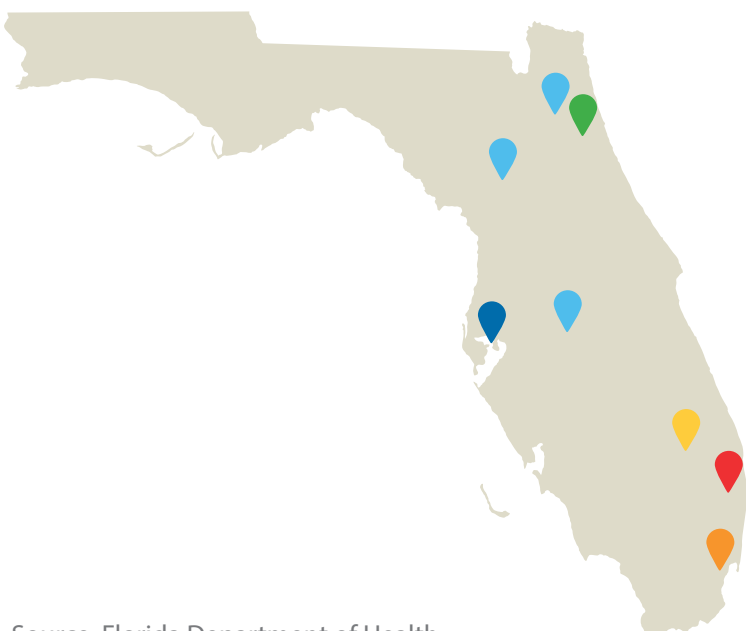
Reducing tobacco exposure (first-hand and second-hand) in Florida has been one of the most effective means in reducing our state's cancer burden by preventing lethal cancers. However, tobacco companies continue to spend hundreds of millions of dollars in promoting tobacco use to Floridians. Increasing health communications from Tobacco Free Florida is a high priority objective in the 2020-2025 Florida Cancer Plan because of the gains made in preventing lethal cancers (Goal 3, Objective 3.9).









Sources: CDC, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, State of Florida

Florida Cancer Centers of Excellence

In 2023, six Florida Cancer Centers of Excellence for oncology care, research and education were designated by a joint committee made up members from the Florida Department of Health, CCRAB, and the Florida Biomedical Research Advisory Council. Three of these academic centers headquartered in Florida have earned the designation of a National Cancer Institute (NCI) cancer center. The continued support for the Florida Academic Cancer Center Alliance (FACCA) funded by the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program helps to achieve the Florida Cancer Plan Objective 21.3 of increasing the number of NCI designated cancer centers headquartered in Florida.



-  Moffitt Cancer Center
-  Mayo Clinic Florida
-  University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
-  University of Florida Health Cancer Center
 - University of Florida Health Shands Hospital (Gainesville)
 - University of Florida Health Proton Therapy Institute (Jacksonville)
 - Orlando Health (Orlando)
-  Memorial Cancer Institute and Florida Atlantic University
-  Egil and Pauline Braathen Center - Cleveland Clinic

Source: Florida Department of Health

Florida Cancer Control & Research Advisory Council Membership

(December 2024)



Chair
Clement Gwede,
PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN
Moffitt Cancer Center



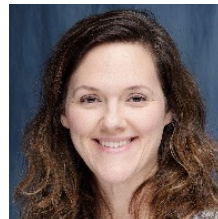
Vice Chair
Erin Kobetz, PhD, MPH
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of Miami



Senator Colleen Burton
Senate President's
Appointee



Representative
Linda Chaney
House Speaker's
Appointee



Autumn Citta, ARNP
Governor's Appointee



Christopher Cogle, MD
Senate President's
Appointee



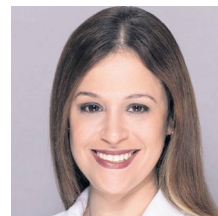
Michael Diaz, MD
Association of Community
Cancer Centers



Paul Hull, PhD
American Cancer
Society



Joseph Ladapo, MD, PhD
Florida's
Surgeon General



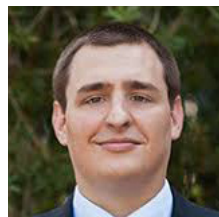
Jessica MacIntyre
DNP, MBA, APRN, AOCNP
Florida Nurses Association



Merritt Martin
House Speaker's
Appointee



Nitesh Paryani, MD
Florida Medical
Association



Mitchell F. Peabody, DO
Florida Osteopathic
Medical Association



Alfredo Quinones-
Hinojosa, MD
Mayo Clinic Jacksonville



Luis Raez, MD
Florida Hospital
Association



Ramzi G. Salloum, PhD
University of Florida
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For More Information Contact:

CCRAB Website

<http://www.ccrab.org>

Florida Cancer Plan 2020-2025

www.ccrab.org/cancer-plan

Florida Cancer Data Systems (FCDS)

<https://fcds.med.miami.edu/inc/statistics.shtml>

Florida Regional Community Cancer Collaboratives:

Northwest Region – www.nwfccc.org

North Central Region – www.ncfcancercontrol.org

Northeast Region – www.hpcnef.org/programs/northeast-florida-cancer-control-collaborative/

East Central Region – www.ecfccc.com

Southwest Region – www.swflccc.weebly.com/about.html

Southeast Region – www.healthcouncil.org/sfccc

Florida Comprehensive Cancer Control Programs

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

Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP)

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/cancer/breast-cancer/index.html>

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/cancer/cervical-cancer/index.html>

Florida Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP)

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/cancer/colon-cancer/index.html>

THANK YOU
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