Lancaster County
Cancer Profile

June 2022

What Is Cancer?

Cancer is not one disease, but a group of diseases. For example, lung cancer is a completely different disease than colorectal cancer. All cancers have one thing in common, they can grow and spread uncontrollably if not diagnosed at an early stage and properly treated.

Cancer is caused by many things, like smoking, poor diet, and/or family history. The greatest risk factor for any cancer is increasing age. The risk of getting cancer increases with age. The risk of developing cancer differs for men and women. In the United States, one out of two men and one out of three women will have cancer in his or her lifetime.

What Is Cancer Incidence?

Cancer *incidence* is a measure of how many *new cancer cases* occurred in a certain period of time. A cancer *incidence rate* tells how many cancers were diagnosed per 100,000 people in the population. (For example, a cancer incidence rate of 400 means that for every 100,000 people, 400 cancers were diagnosed).

Incidence rates can be *age-adjusted*, meaning that the age structure of the population is taken into account when rates are calculated. Adjusting for age allows us to compare rates by removing differences in the age structure among different populations. Incidence rates shown below are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

What Is Cancer Mortality?

Cancer *mortality* is a measure of how many *cancer deaths* occurred in a certain period of time. A cancer *mortality rate* tells how many people died from cancer per 100,000 people in the population. (For example, a cancer mortality rate of 150 means that for every 100,000 people in the population, 150 died from cancer).

Cancer mortality rates can also be *age-adjusted*, taking into account the age structure of the population. Mortality rates shown below are age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population.

Impact of Cancer: US, SC, and SC County

The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that 1,918,030 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2022. This translates to 5,255 new diagnoses each day. Furthermore, an estimated 609,360 people in the United States are expected to die from cancer in 2022.

In South Carolina, ACS estimates 33,440 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in 2022 or over 92 new cancer cases diagnosed each day, while an estimated 10,850 South Carolinians will die from cancer in 2022. The four most common cancers in SC are cancers of the lung, breast (female), prostate, and colon/rectum. The four leading cancer causes of death in SC are lung, colon/rectum, breast (female), and pancreas.

Tables 1 through 4 below show the number of new cancer cases and deaths for Lancaster County, including age-adjusted rates for cancers in the county and for the state of SC. The last column in each table shows how the county ranks in comparison to the other 45 SC counties. A rank of 1 means that a county has the highest rate of any county, while a rank of 46 means that a county has the lowest rate of any SC county. *At this time, the most recent cancer statistics for South Carolina and the United States are for new cases diagnosed in 2019. Deaths occurring in 2019 are also used.*

Table 1 shows 5-year cancer incidence data for Lancaster County and SC for all cancers by sex and race, including Lancaster County's rank in SC compared to all other SC counties.

Table 1. Cancer Incidence by Sex and Race, 2015-2019, Lancaster County and South Carolina*

	SC	Lancaster County		
	5-year rate	5-year rate	new cases*	SC rank
all	444	440	577	26
male	494	493	302	25
female	407	401	275	27
white	445	444	476	26
black	433	412	90	34

***Counts are annual averages based on 5 years of data.** 5-year rates are per 100,000 age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. Source: SC Central Cancer Registry. ~ Statistic could not be calculated (small counts).

Table 2 shows 5-year cancer mortality data for Lancaster County and SC for all cancers by sex and race, including Lancaster County's rank in SC compared to all other SC counties.

Table 2. Cancer Mortality by Sex and Race, 2015-2019, Lancaster County and South Carolina*

	SC	Lancaster County		
	5-year rate	5-year rate	lives lost*	SC rank
all	161	147	195	43
male	198	176	107	41
female	134	125	88	41
white	157	139	154	43
black	181	192	39	18

***Counts are annual averages based on 5 years of data.** 5-year rates are per 100,000 age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry and SC Vital Records. ~ Statistic could not be calculated (small counts).

Table 3 shows 5-year cancer incidence data for Lancaster County and SC for selected cancers, including Lancaster County's rank in SC compared to all other SC counties.

Table 3. Cancer Incidence for Selected Cancers, 2015-2019, Lancaster County and South Carolina*

	SC	Lancaster County		
cancer	5-year rate	5-year rate	new cases*	SC rank
breast (female)	131	141	96	8
prostate (male)	113	114	75	21
lung/ bronchus	61	59	83	33
colon/ rectum	37	35	44	38
pancreas	14	14	17	24

***Counts are annual averages based on 5 years of data.** 5-year rates are per 100,000 age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. Source: SC Central Cancer Registry. ~ Statistic could not be calculated (small counts).

Table 4 shows 5-year cancer mortality data for Lancaster County and SC for selected cancers, including Lancaster County's rank in SC compared to all other SC counties.

Table 4. Cancer Mortality for Selected Cancers, 2015-2019, Lancaster County and South Carolina*

	SC	Lancaster County		
cancer	5-year rate	5-year rate	lives lost*	SC rank
breast (female)	21	21	14	28
prostate (male)	21	14	8	43
lung/ bronchus	41	41	56	30
colon/ rectum	14	14	17	28
pancreas	11	11	14	29

***Counts are annual averages based on 5 years of data.** 5-year rates are per 100,000 age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. Sources: SC Central Cancer Registry and SC Vital Records. ~ Statistic could not be calculated (small counts).

Table 5 shows the percentage of cancers diagnosed in early and late stages of disease in Lancaster County and SC. Cancers diagnosed in late stages lessen the potential for successful treatment and raise the risk of premature loss of life.

Table 5. All Cancers by Stage of Diagnosis, 2015-2019, Lancaster County and South Carolina*

	SC	Lancaster County
	Percent of all cancers	Percent of all cancers
Early Stage	47.7	51.3
Late Stage	38.4	38.3
Unknown Stage	13.9	10.4

*Percents (proportions) shown are (rounded) based on 5 years of data. Statistics include *in situ* cancers.
Source: SC Central Cancer Registry.

Breast Cancer in Lancaster County

Among women, breast cancer was the number 1 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 2 leading cause of cancer death from 2015-2019. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 96 new female breast cancer cases diagnosed and 14 deaths from this disease.

Prostate Cancer in Lancaster County

Among men, prostate cancer was the number 1 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 3 leading cause of cancer death from 2015-2019. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 75 new prostate cancer cases diagnosed and 8 deaths from this disease.

Lung Cancer in Lancaster County

Lung Cancer was the number 2 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 1 leading cause of cancer death from 2015-2019. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 83 new lung cancer cases diagnosed and 56 deaths from this disease.

Colorectal Cancer in Lancaster County

Colorectal cancer was the number 4 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 2 leading cause of cancer death from 2015-2019. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 44 new colorectal cancer cases diagnosed and 17 deaths from this disease.

Pancreatic Cancer in Lancaster County

Pancreatic cancer was the number 10 most commonly diagnosed cancer and the number 3 leading cause of cancer death from 2015-2019. For this 5-year period, there was an annual average of 17 new pancreatic cancer cases diagnosed and 14 deaths from this disease.

Screening

Men and women should speak with their doctor about the pros and cons of screening and to determine their level of risk.

The Best Chance Network (BCN) provides breast cancer screenings (ages 30-64) and cervical cancer screenings (ages 21-64) for women with incomes at or below 250% of the federal poverty level, screening thousands of women each year. For more information see: http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/Cancer/FreeCancerScreenings/

Notes: Data are subject to change as data sets are updated. Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Statistics do not include *in situ* cancers, except for bladder. The following suppression rules may have been applied to the data in the text and tables above: counts of 1-4 are recorded as less than 5; counts of 5-9 are rounded to 10. Rates based on counts fewer than 16 are suppressed (~).

Resources

SC Central Cancer Registry (DHEC)
https://www.scdhec.gov/CancerRegistry
American Cancer Society
http://www.cancer.org/research/cancerfactsstatistics/
CDC National Program of Cancer Registries
United States Cancer Statistics
http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/
Division of Cancer Prevention and Control (DHEC)
http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/Cancer/
Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control (DHEC)
http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/TobaccoCessation/
SC Cancer Alliance