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Cancer and African Americans

African Americans have the highest mortality rate of any racial and ethnic group for all cancers combined and for most major cancers. Death rates for all major causes of death are higher for African Americans than for whites, contributing in part to a lower life expectancy for both African American men and African American women.

- In 2009, African American men were 1.3 times and 1.6 times, respectively, more likely to have new cases of lung and prostate cancer, as compared to non-Hispanic white men.
- African American men were 1.7 times as likely to have new cases of stomach cancer as non-Hispanic white men.
- African Americans men had lower 5-year cancer survival rates for lung, colon and pancreatic cancer, as compared to non-Hispanic white men.
- African American men are 2.5 times as likely to die from prostate cancer, as compared to non-Hispanic white men.
- In 2009, African American women were 10% less likely to have been diagnosed with breast cancer, however, they were almost 40% more likely to die from breast cancer, as compared to non-Hispanic white women.
- African American women are 2.4 times as likely to have been diagnosed with stomach cancer, and they are 2.5 times as likely to die from stomach cancer, as compared to non-Hispanic white women.

At a glance – New Cases:

New Cancer Cases per 100,000 – Men (2009)

Cancer	African American Men	Non-Hispanic White Men	African American/Non-Hispanic White Ratio
All Sites	604.5	537.1	1.1
Colon and Rectum	60.4	47.0	1.3
Lung	91.5	68.4	1.3
Pancreas	18.2	13.9	1.3
Prostate	229.0	145.0	1.6
Stomach	15.1	8.7	1.7

New Cancer Cases per 100,000 - Women (2009)

Cancer	African American Women	Non-Hispanic White Women	African American/Non-Hispanic White Ratio
All Sites	408.3	439.8	0.9
Breast	126.0	138.0	0.9
Cervical	7.9	6.5	1.2
Colon and Rectum	49.7	36.8	1.4
Pancreas	14.4	11.0	1.3
Stomach	8.8	3.7	2.4

Source: CDC, 2013 Health United States, 2012. Table 42. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/hus12.pdf> [PDF | 9.8MB]

At a glance – Top Cancer Sites for African Americans (2006-2010):

Cancer Incidence Rates per 100,000 – Men

Cancer	African American Men	Non-Hispanic White Men	African American/Non-Hispanic White Ratio
All Sites	610.4	558.9	1.1
Colon & Rectum	64.3	52.1	1.2

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Esophagus	8.4	8.4	1.0
Kidney & Renal Pelvis	24.1	21.7	1.1
Liver & IBD	15.1	9.1	1.7
Lung & Bronchus	95.8	79.1	1.2
Oral Cavity & Pharynx	14.9	18.0	0.8
Pancreas	17.6	14.0	1.3
Prostate	228.5	148.2	1.5
Stomach	16.1	8.3	1.9

At a glance – Top Cancer Sites for African Americans (2006-2010):

Cancer Incidence Rates per 100,000 – Women

Cancer	African American Women	Non-Hispanic White Women	African American/Non-Hispanic White Ratio
All Sites	397.5	441.2	0.9
Breast	121.4	133.4	0.9
Cervical	9.6	7.2	1.3
Colon & Rectum	49.2	39.3	1.3
Kidney	12.3	10.9	1.1
Liver & IBD	4.5	3.0	1.5
Lung & Bronchus	52.2	58.7	0.9
Pancreas	14.3	10.7	1.3
Stomach	8.7	3.8	2.3

Source: NCI 2013. Seer Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2010. Tables 2.15 through 24.15
http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2010/sections.html

At a glance – 5 Year Survival Rate:

Percent of Patients, Men (2002-2008)

Cancer	African American Men	White Men	African American/White Ratio
All Sites	63.6	69.7	0.9
Colon	53.4	66.9	0.8
Lung	12.6	15.2	0.8
Pancreas	4.5	5.9	0.8
Prostate	97.7	99.9	1.0
Stomach	22.8	24.9	0.9

Percent of Patients – Women (2001-2008)

Cancer	African American Women	White Women	African American/White Ratio
All Sites	55.8	68.0	0.8
Breast	78.0	91.7	0.9
Cervical	61.1	70.2	0.9
Colon	56.9	65.6	0.9
Pancreas	5.0	6.5	0.8

Source: CDC, 2013. Health United States, 2012. Table 43
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/12.pdf> [PDF | 9.8MB]

At a glance – Death Rate:

Cancer Death Rates per 100,000 – Men (2006-2010)

Cancer	African American Men	Non-Hispanic White Men	African American/Non-Hispanic White Ratio
All Sites	276.6	217.3	1.3
Colon & Rectum	28.7	19.2	1.5
Lung	78.5	65.7	1.2
Pancreas	15.3	12.7	1.2
Prostate	50.9	21.3	2.4
Stomach	9.8	3.9	2.5

Cancer Death Rates per 100,000 – Women (2006-2010)

Cancer	African American Women	Non-Hispanic White Women	African American/Non-Hispanic White Ratio
All Sites	171.2	153.6	1.1
Breast	30.8	22.7	1.4
Cervical	4.2	2.1	2.0
Colon and Rectum	19.0	13.6	1.4
Pancreas	12.5	9.5	1.3
Stomach	4.7	1.9	2.5

Source: NCI 2013. Seer Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2010. Table 1.21.
http://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2010/sections.html [PDF | 24KB]

At a Glance – Screening:

Breast Cancer

Percent of women age 40 and over who had a mammogram within the past 2 years, 2010 (crude)

Non-Hispanic Black Women	Non-Hispanic White Women	Non-Hispanic Black/Non-Hispanic White Ratio
67.4	67.8	1.0

Source: CDC, 2013. Health United States, 2012. Table 82.
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/hus12.pdf> [PDF | 9.8MB]

Cervical Cancer

Percent of women age 18 and over who had a Pap smear within the past 3 years, 2010 (crude)

Non-Hispanic Black Women	Non-Hispanic White Women	Non-Hispanic Black/Non-Hispanic White Ratio
77.4	72.8	1.1

Source: CDC, 2013. Health United States, 2012. Table 83.
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/hus12.pdf> [PDF | 9.8MB]

Colon Cancer

Adults age 50 and over who reported they ever had a colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, or proctoscopy, United States, 2008

Non-Hispanic Black	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black/Non-Hispanic White Ratio
50.4	58.4	0.9

Source: 2012 National Healthcare Disparities Report. Table 1_3_2.2b.
<http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/qdr11/index.html>

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