



Community Outreach Efforts & Education



CCRAB

THE STATE OF CANCER FLORIDA

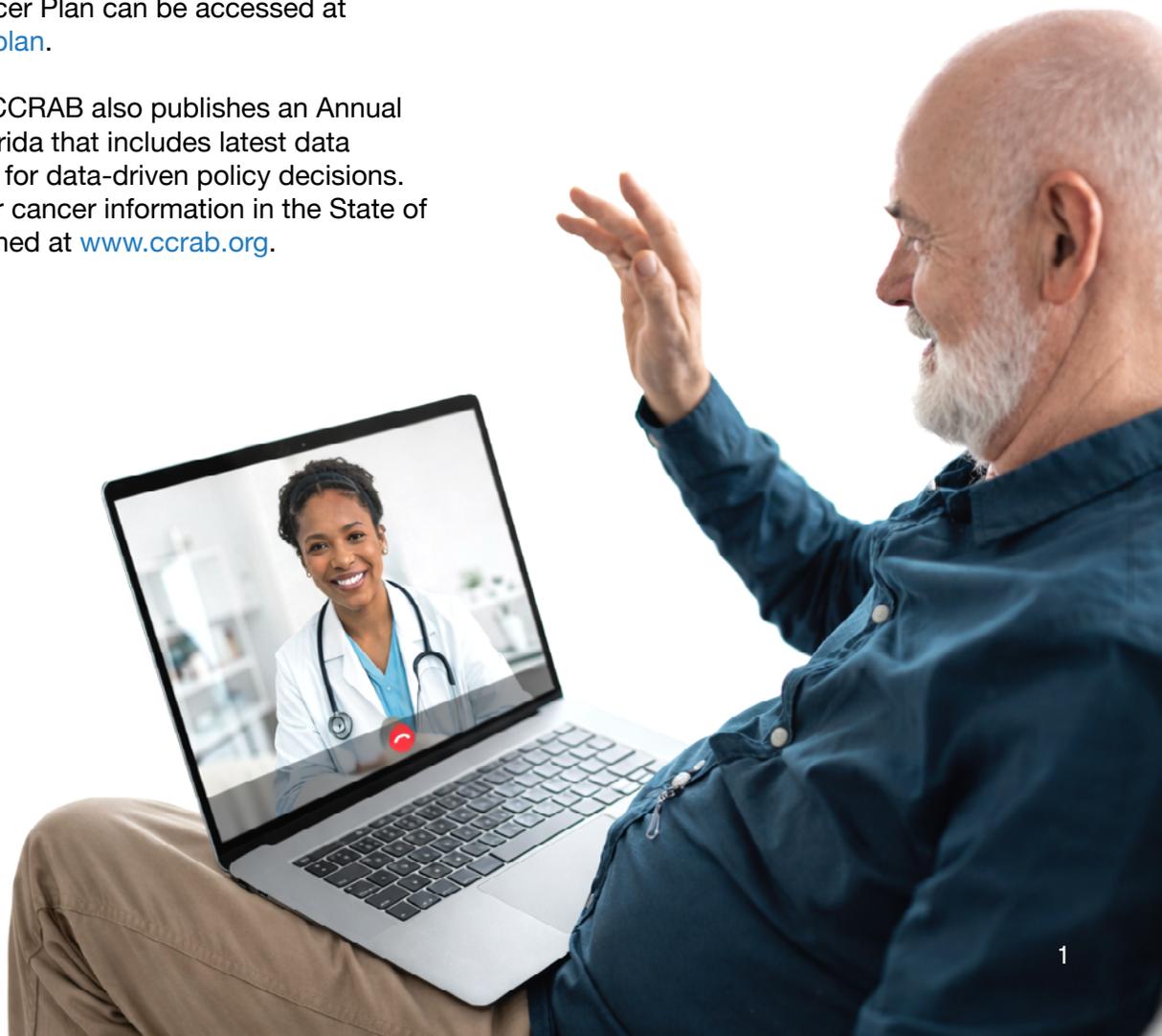
INTRODUCTION

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, closely monitoring Florida's cancer burden and recommending changes in policies, systems, and environments to improve prevention, earlier detection, treatment, and quality of life.

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.

Additionally, each 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.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cancer remains one of Florida's most urgent public health challenges. In 2024, cancer and heart disease continued to be the two leading causes of death statewide, underscoring the need for sustained, data-driven prevention, early detection, treatment, and survivorship strategies.

This Annual Report highlights the latest statewide cancer incidence and mortality trends, geographic disparities, screening challenges, and community-based implementation efforts aligned with the 2026–2030 Florida Cancer Plan. CCRAB remains committed to advancing evidence-based policies and partnerships that reduce cancer burden and improve health for all Floridians.

Key Findings in 2026

- **Cancer incidence in Florida continues to decline overall**, mirroring national trends. Recent fluctuations reflect improved outpatient case capture, strengthening the accuracy of Florida's cancer surveillance system.
- **Cancer mortality has steadily decreased over the past decade**, driven in part by strong tobacco control efforts, improved screening, and advances in treatment such as immuno-oncology therapies.
- **Geographic inequities persist**. Rural and less populated counties in Northern Florida and the Panhandle experience higher cancer incidence and mortality, emphasizing the need for targeted prevention and access-to-care investments.
- **Late-stage diagnosis remains a major challenge**. Since 2016, approximately 46% of cancers are still diagnosed at advanced stages, with concerning increases in late-stage colorectal and prostate cancer.
- **Screening disruptions from COVID-19 continue to have downstream effects**. Screening uptake remains below pre-pandemic levels, contributing to later-stage diagnoses and avoidable mortality risk.
- **Cervical cancer elimination is achievable**. HPV vaccination rates are improving but remain below the 80% target needed to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem.

CCRAB stands ready to support the Florida Legislature, state agencies, health systems, and community partners in implementing these priorities to reduce preventable cancer burden and ensure that every Floridian benefits from timely prevention, early detection, high-quality treatment, and survivorship support.

Leading Causes of Death in Florida

Cancer and heart disease remain the two leading causes of death in Florida, exceeding other major causes such as accidents, chronic lung disease, stroke, Alzheimer’s disease, influenza, and diabetes. The 2026-2030 Florida Cancer Plan provides a roadmap to strengthen statewide cancer data to monitor disease burden, and in turn, allocate resources based on accurate, statewide evidence informed by the Florida Cancer Data System. Strengthening Florida’s data infrastructure supports more targeted prevention, early detection, and strategies across the State.

Cause of Death	Age-Adjusted Death Rate	Change from 2023
Heart Diseases	135.7	0.1
Cancer	134.2	0.8
Unintentional Injury	52.9	-11.0
Stroke	46.1	1.5
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	29.7	-0.5
Diabetes	20.6	-0.4
Alzheimer's Disease	15.9	0.3
Suicide	13.9	-0.2
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	11.2	-0.5
Hypertension	9.4	-0.2
Kidney Disease	9.4	-0.5

Fig.1 Top 10 Leading Causes of Death in Florida, 2024
 Source: Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics

Cancer Incidence in Florida vs. the United States

The incidence of cancer in Florida has steadily decreased over the past decade. The observed uptick shown on the graph for 2015 onward reflects improvements in how the state captures cancer cases, not a true rise in disease. Florida’s statewide cancer data and surveillance program expanded its methods to better capture diagnoses occurring in outpatient settings, where more biopsies and diagnostic tests are now performed. Because tumor registrars have traditionally been based in hospitals, incorporating outpatient data has become essential to ensuring complete and accurate case reporting. These enhanced data collection methods provide a more accurate picture of Florida’s cancer burden and align directly with Goal 2 of the 2026-2030 Florida Cancer Plan, which prioritizes comprehensive, high quality cancer data to support informed public health decision making.

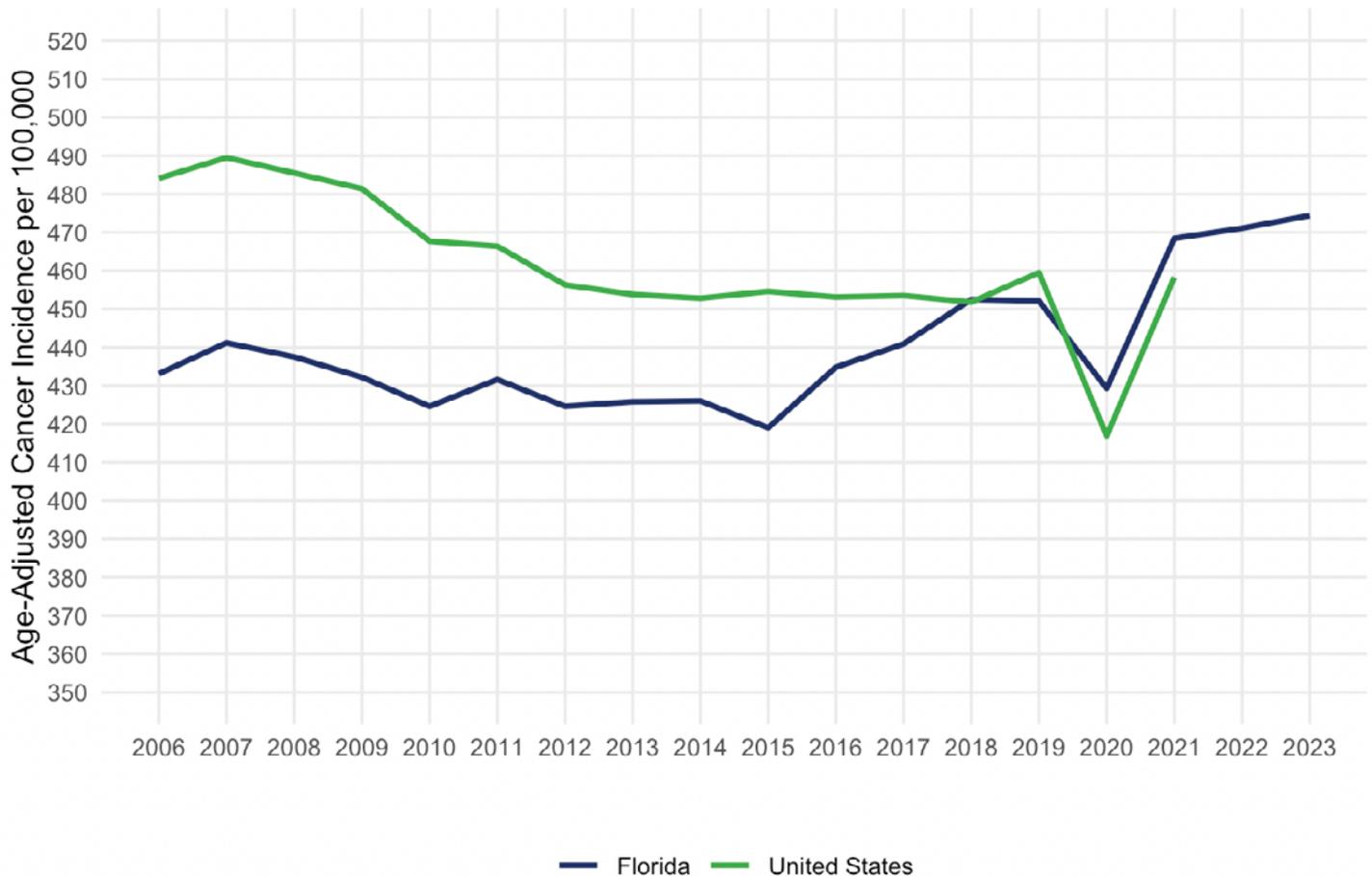


Fig.2 Cancer Incidence Rates in Florida versus the United States
 Source: Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS), 2006-2021

Leading Causes of Cancer Incidence in Florida

Based on age-adjusted incidence rates, breast cancer is the most diagnosed cancer in Florida, followed by prostate cancer, lung cancer, colorectal cancer, and melanoma. **Cancer incidence refers to the number of new cancer cases identified in a population over a specific period of time.** In the 2026–2030 Florida Cancer Plan, the state aims to reduce cancer incidence among all Floridians by promoting the maintenance of a healthy lifestyle (Goal 10) and eliminating cancer-causing hepatitis C virus (HCV) through increased screening and improved linkage to care (Goal 16).

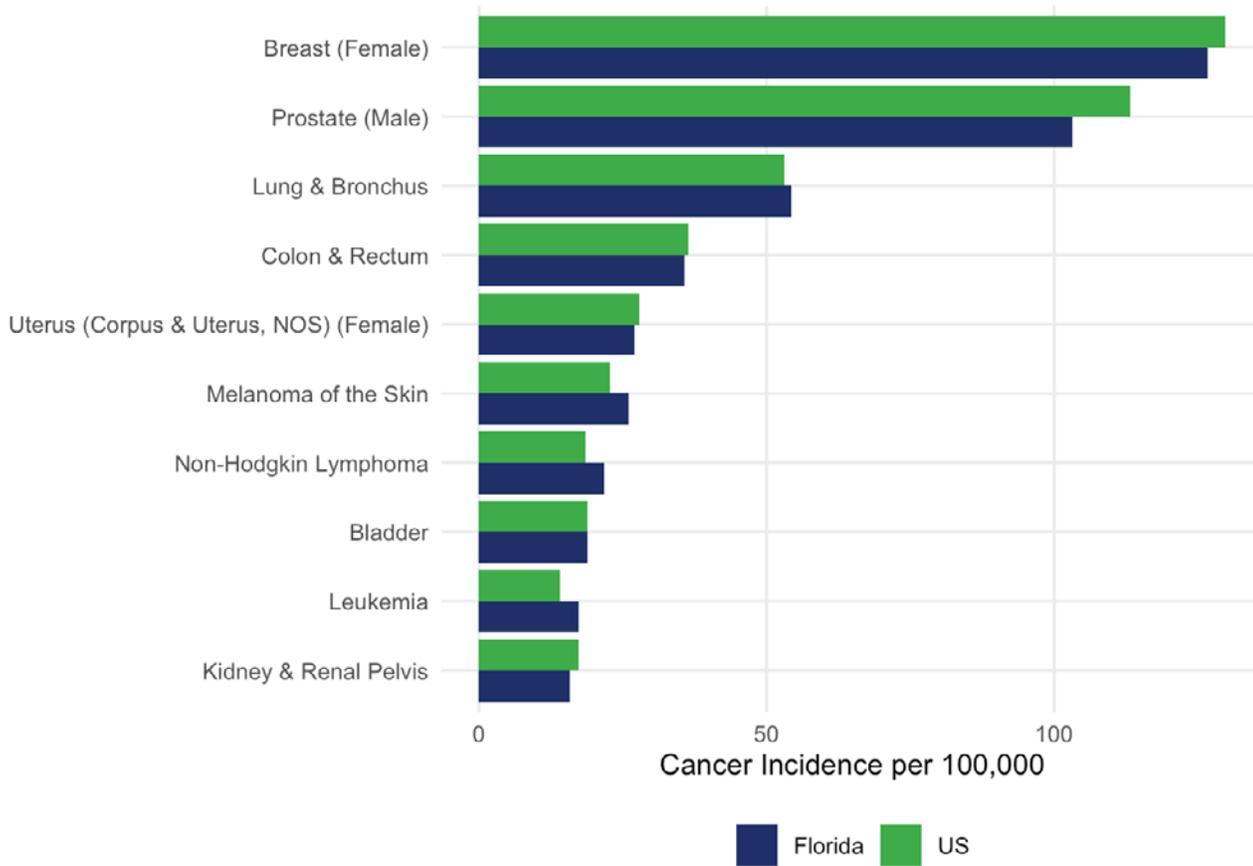


Fig.3 Leading Causes of Cancer Incidence in Florida
 Source: Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS), 2022

Cancer Incidence by Florida County

Across Florida, age-adjusted cancer incidence rates are higher in less populated Northern counties along the Interstate 75 corridor, as well as in the Northeast and Northwest Panhandle regions. These geographic differences highlight areas where increased prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment efforts are especially needed. Local cancer stakeholders and the Regional Cancer Control Collaboratives continue to focus on strengthening early detection and improving access to care to reduce the excess cancer burden in these regions.

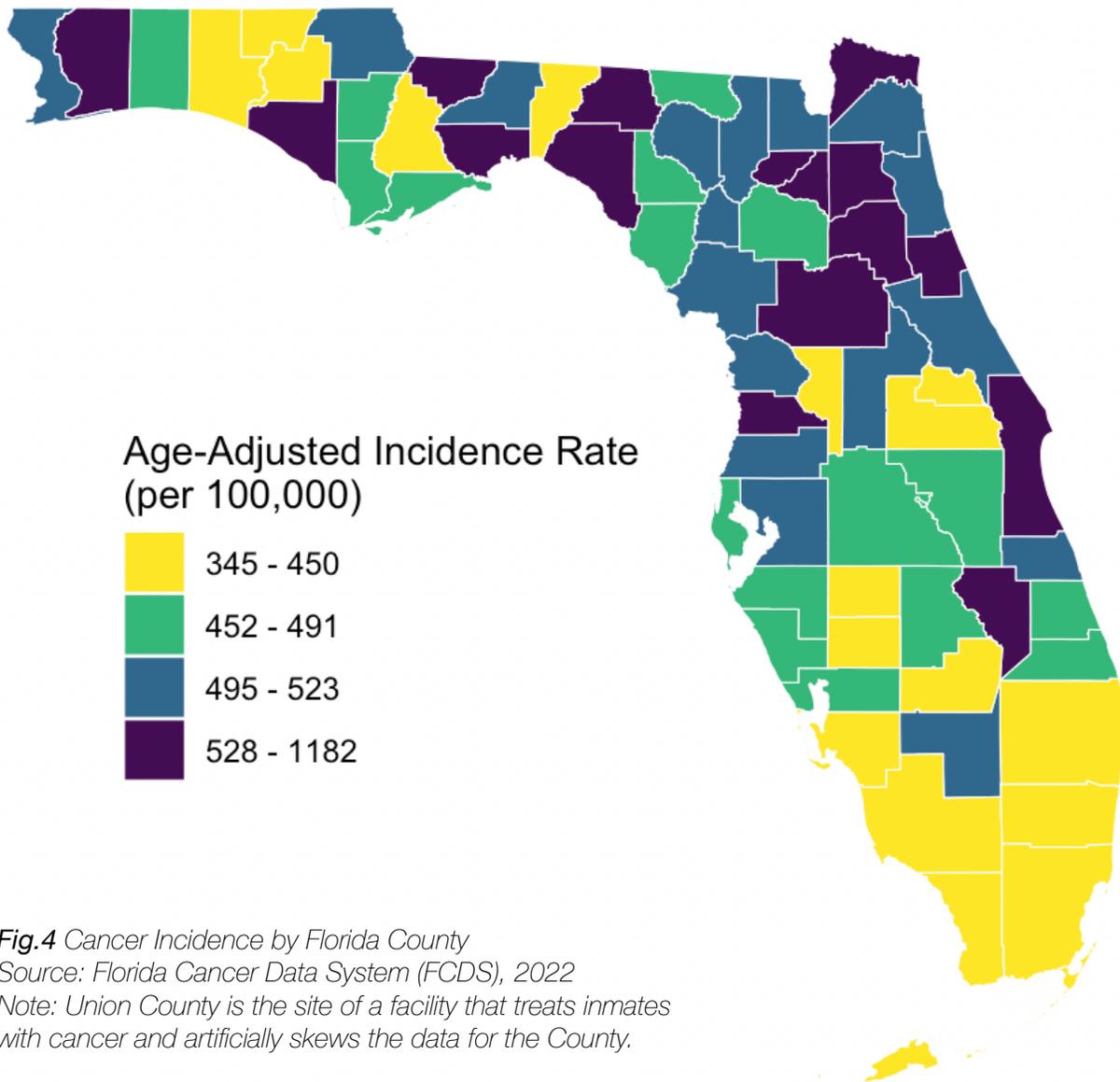


Fig.4 Cancer Incidence by Florida County
 Source: Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS), 2022
 Note: Union County is the site of a facility that treats inmates with cancer and artificially skews the data for the County.

Late/Advanced Stage Cancer Diagnosis

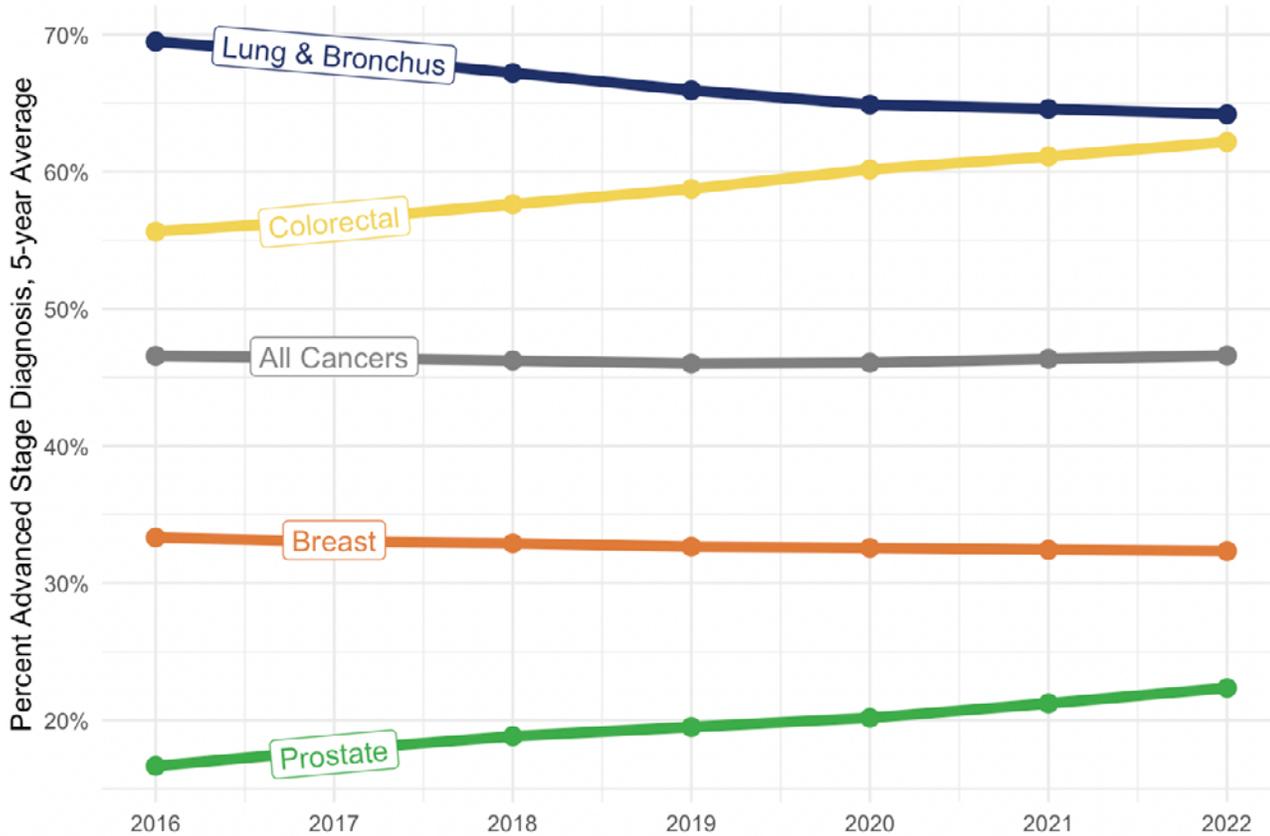


Fig.5 Percent Advanced Stage Diagnosis 5-year Average
 Source: Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS), 2012-2022

Advanced stage includes all cancer diagnosis staged as regional and distant disease. Since 2016, the percentage of advanced stage cancer diagnoses has remained relatively stable at 46% for all cancers combined. However, when looking at specific cancer types, there are notable trends: advanced-stage diagnoses have increased for prostate and colorectal cancers; the increase in advanced-stage colorectal cancer reflects underutilization of screening and presents an opportunity for public health planning. Breast cancer incidence has remained relatively stable with a slight decline, and lung cancer has shown a decrease in advanced-stage diagnoses. The map on the next page shows the proportion of late-stage diagnoses of cancer across Florida counties.

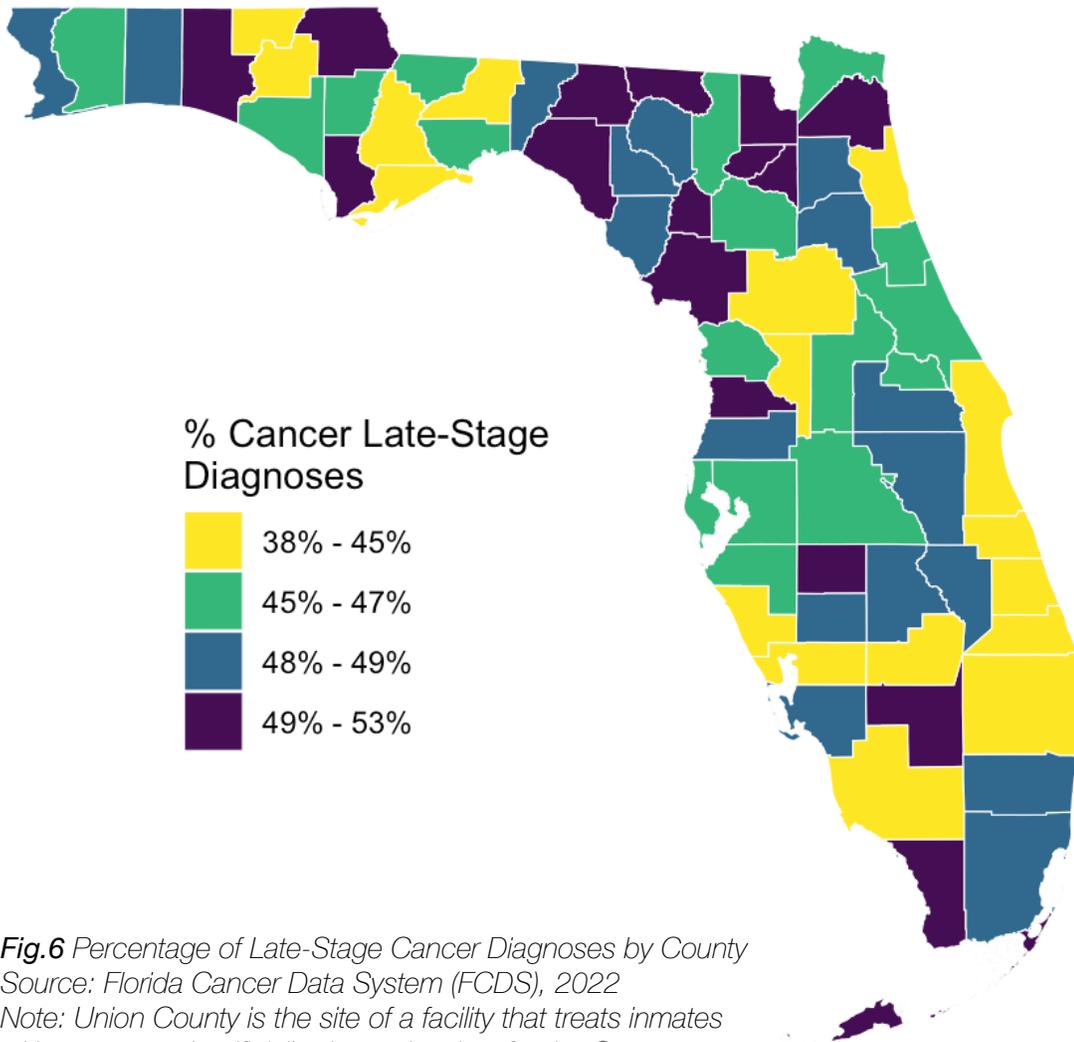


Fig.6 Percentage of Late-Stage Cancer Diagnoses by County
 Source: Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS), 2022
 Note: Union County is the site of a facility that treats inmates with cancer and artificially skews the data for the County.

CANCER SCREENINGS LEAD TO EARLIER DETECTION OF DISEASE AND LOWER DISEASE MORTALITY

Cancer screenings reduce disease mortality, and expanding timely access to lung, colorectal, breast, and cervical screening remains essential to improving cancer outcomes statewide. Florida has made strong investments in breast and cervical screening programs, yet additional support for lung and colorectal screening is needed to address persistent gaps, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

During the COVID 19 pandemic, Florida experienced significant declines in all major cancer screenings as non urgent procedures were delayed or limited. While screening activity has resumed, statewide uptake remains below pre pandemic levels, indicating a continued need for targeted outreach and system level interventions. Emerging evidence from the Florida Cancer Data System, the State Cancer Registry, shows an increase in later stage cancer diagnoses after the pandemic, reflecting the long term consequences of missed or delayed screenings and underscoring the urgency of renewed statewide screening efforts. Strengthening Florida's screening capacity, infrastructure, and community outreach remains critical to closing these gaps and reducing preventable cancer burden.



Cancer Mortality Rates in Florida versus the United States

The rate of death from cancer in Florida has steadily decreased over the past decade, a trend that mirrors national declines. This reduction is driven in large part by Florida’s long standing tobacco prevention and cessation efforts, as highlighted in Goal 5 of the 2026–2030 Florida Cancer Plan. The Plan identifies additional opportunities to further reduce tobacco use and exposure, including policies that restrict smoking in public spaces. In 2022, Florida advanced this work when House Bill 105 was signed into law, allowing local governments to ban smoking on public beaches and in public parks, empowering communities to take action to protect public health. Improved access to and uptake of cancer screening has also contributed to declining mortality by enabling earlier detection of cancers for which curative treatment is possible, consistent with the screening and early detection goals outlined in Goals 12–16 of the Florida Cancer Plan. Continued progress is anticipated with the growing use of immuno-oncology therapies, which are improving outcomes for two of Florida’s most lethal cancers—lung cancer and melanoma. Many of these innovative treatments are being developed in Florida with partial support from the state’s Bankhead Coley and James & Esther King Biomedical Research Programs, aligned with the research priorities of Goal 4 in the Florida Cancer Plan (*Florida Department of Health, 2026–2030; CCRAB; CDC*).

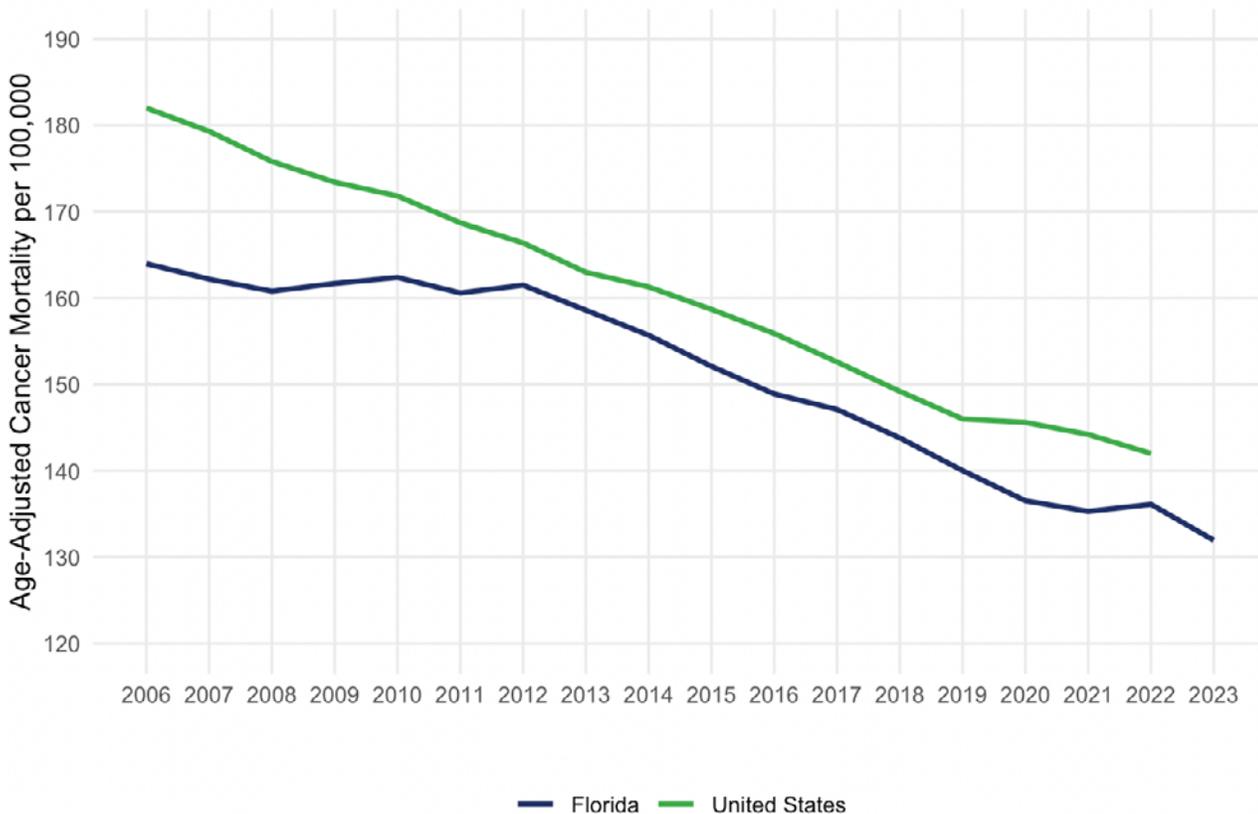


Fig.7 Cancer Mortality Rates in Florida versus the United States
 Source: FCDS/SEER, 2006-2022

Leading Causes of Cancer Mortality in Florida

Lung, ovarian, and colorectal cancers account for a substantial number of cancer deaths in Florida. These cancers are often diagnosed at a late stage, after they have spread to other parts of the body, which greatly increases the risk of death. Because metastatic disease is far more difficult to treat effectively, improving early detection and expanding access to timely diagnostic services remain critical opportunities to reduce mortality. Continued investment in Florida’s Bankhead Coley and James & Esther King Biomedical Research Programs is also essential for advancing new treatments and accelerating the translation of discoveries from Florida laboratories into clinical care, consistent with Goal 4 of the 2026–2030 Florida Cancer Plan.

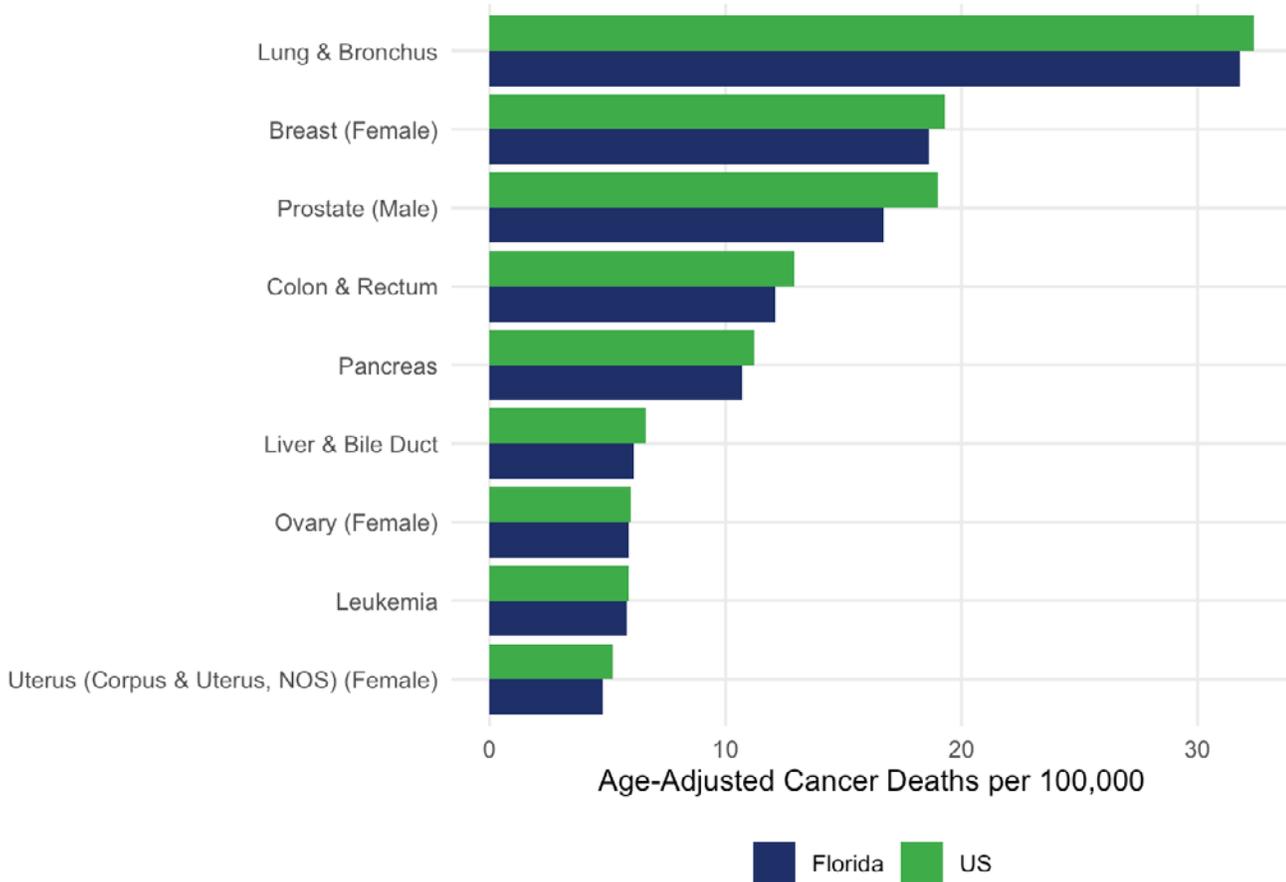


Fig.8 Cancer mortality by type per 100,000, 202
 Source: FCDS/SEER, 2006-2022

Cancer Mortality by Florida County

Deaths from cancer are lower in more populated, urban regions of Florida and higher in less populated, rural counties. These geographic differences highlight areas where increased prevention, earlier diagnosis, and timely access to effective treatment are especially needed. Improving access to high quality diagnostic services and cancer treatment statewide is a central aim of Goal 17 in the 2026–2030 Florida Cancer Plan. Local cancer stakeholders and the Regional Cancer Control Collaboratives continue to work toward strengthening early detection and expanding treatment access to help reduce cancer deaths in these regions.

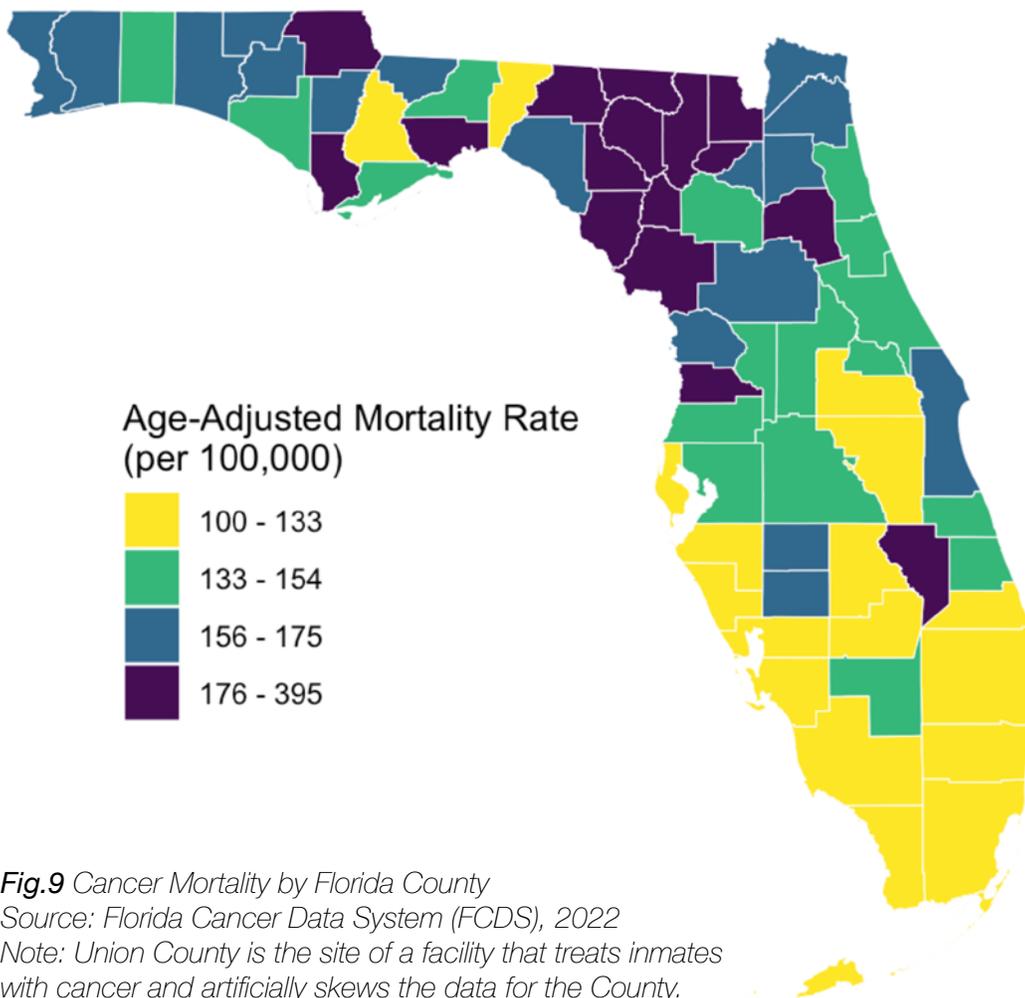


Fig.9 Cancer Mortality by Florida County
 Source: Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS), 2022
 Note: Union County is the site of a facility that treats inmates with cancer and artificially skews the data for the County.

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*).

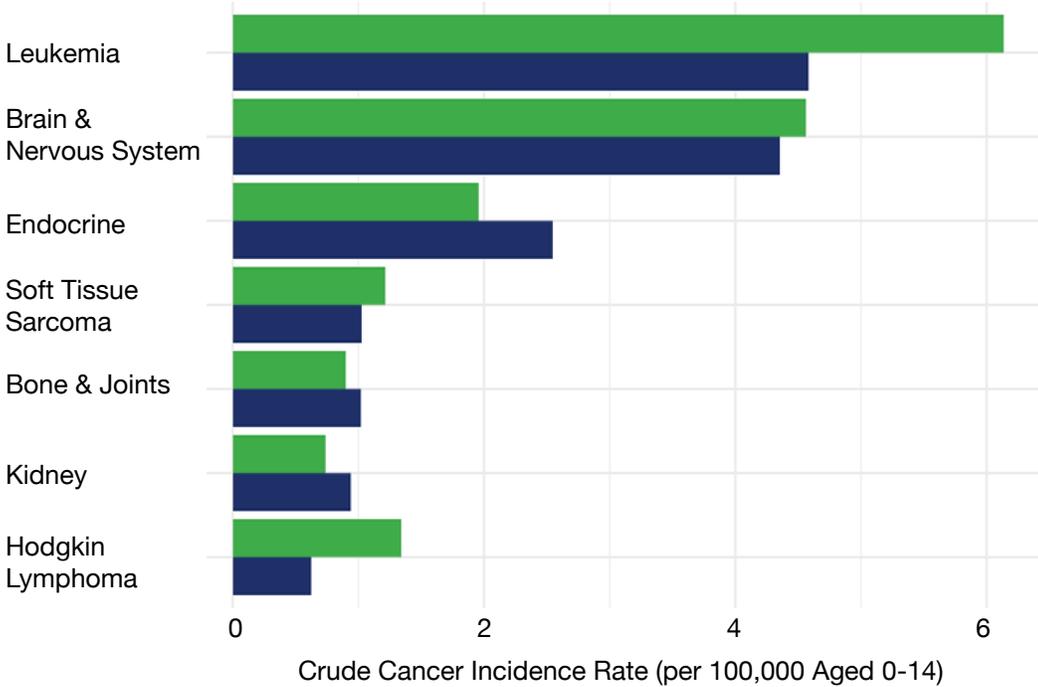


Fig.10 Pediatric Cancer Incidence Rate in Florida
Source: Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS), 2018-2022

Male
Female

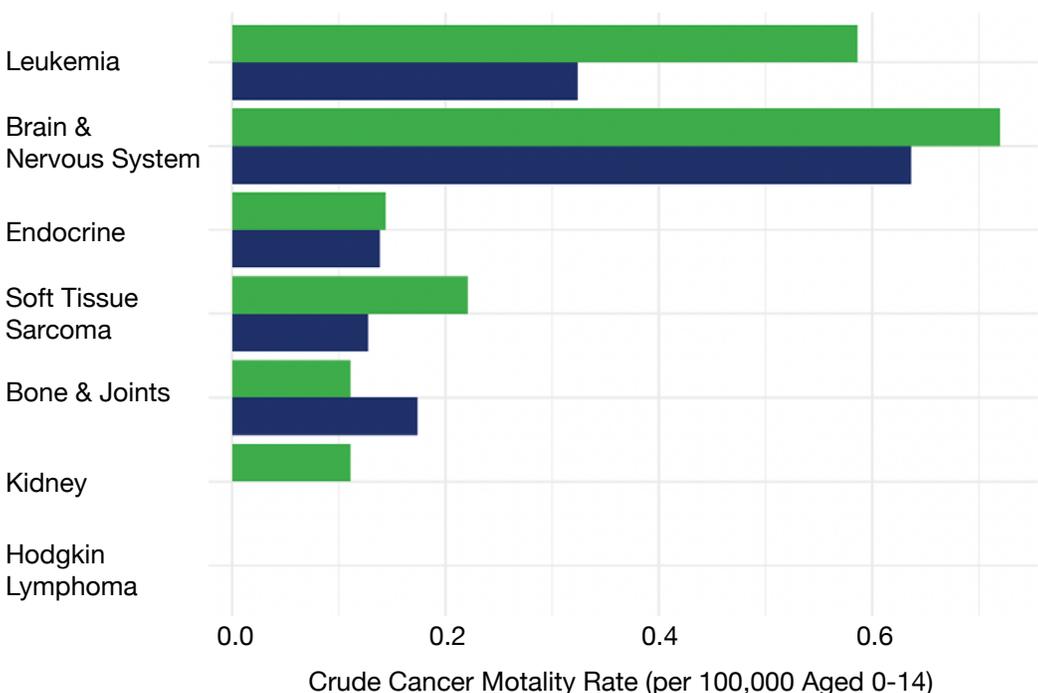


Fig.11 Pediatric Cancer Mortality Rate in Florida
Source: Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS), 2018-2022

Male
Female

Cervical Cancer Elimination in Florida

Eliminating cervical cancer as a public health problem in Florida is an achievable goal and a central priority of the 2026–2030 Florida Cancer Plan. Cervical cancer is largely preventable through timely human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination and highly effective screening strategies that enable early detection and treatment of precancerous disease. In 2023, 59% of Florida adolescents were up to date on HPV vaccination and 56.8% had completed the vaccine series. To meet the Plan’s target of 80%, Florida is advancing evidence-based strategies that embed HPV vaccination into routine well-child visits beginning at age 9, expand school-based and community outreach to parents and guardians, strengthen provider communication and reminder systems, and use FL SHOTS data to identify and support low-initiating practices. In parallel, the state is working to increase cervical cancer screening among adult women through community education, EHR-based reminders, expanded use of FDA-approved self-sampling approaches, and strengthened follow-up systems to ensure timely diagnostic evaluation and treatment after abnormal results. Together, these coordinated vaccination, screening, and follow-up efforts—grounded in data, clinical best practices, and community-based implementation—are essential to reaching the Florida Cancer Plan’s 2030 targets and reducing preventable cervical cancer incidence and mortality statewide.

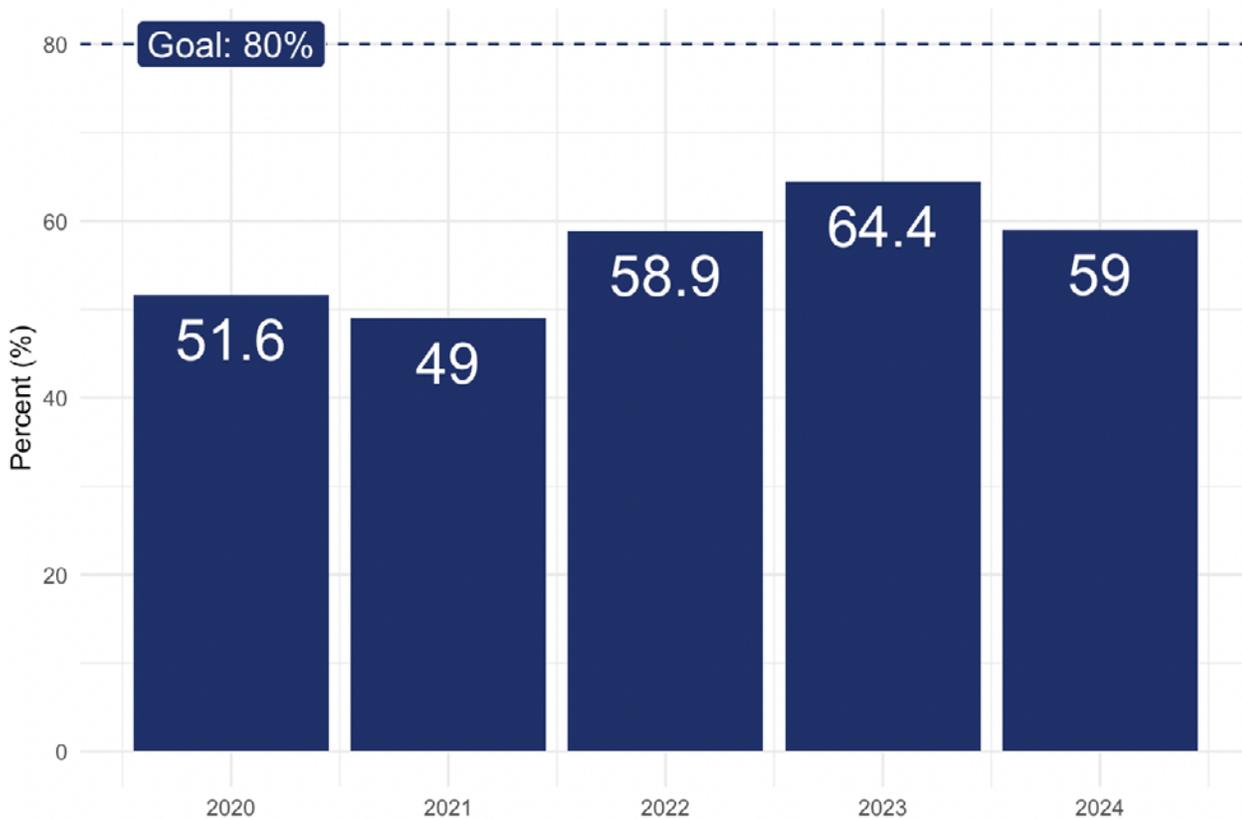
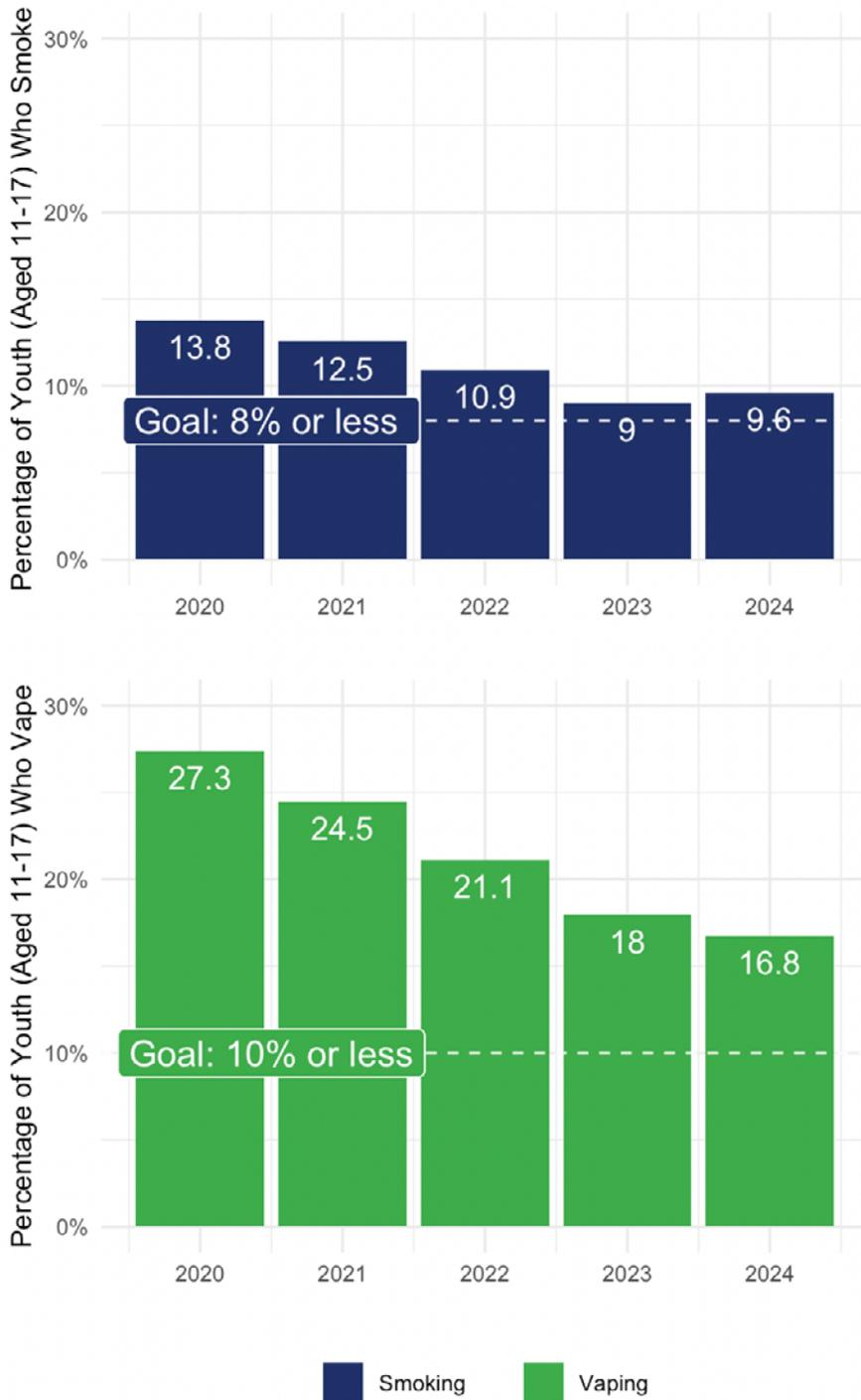


Fig.12 HPV Vaccinations in Florida
 Source: National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS_Teen)

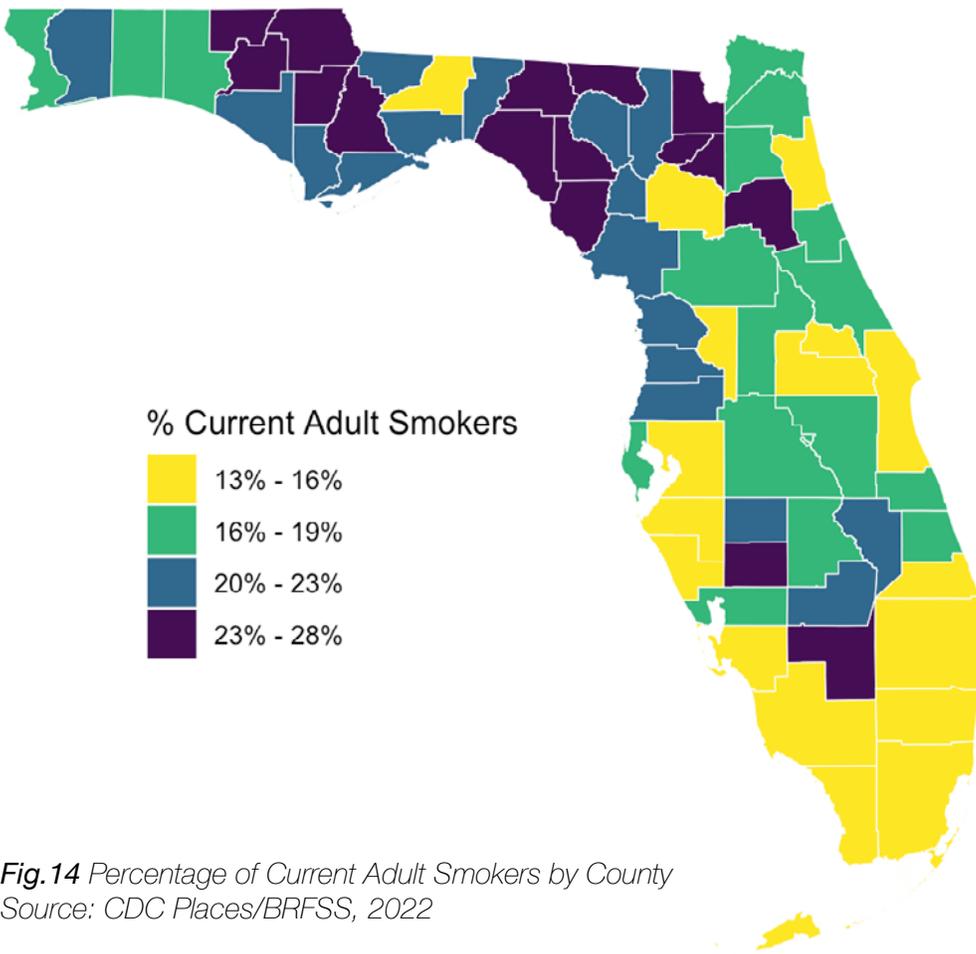
Smoking & Vaping



While the percentage of youth smokers has been constantly decreasing in the previous decade, vaping among teenagers increased significantly during that period before starting to decline in 2020. In the years 2020 and following youth smoking rates have decreased almost to the goal of 8 percent, while vaping rates are still 7% above the goal of 10 percent.

These trends reflect the need for sustained and targeted prevention efforts. As an aim under Goal 5 (Tobacco Initiation) of the 2026– 2030 Florida Cancer Plan, strategies include comprehensive, youth-focused media campaigns, expanded recruitment and engagement of youth in tobacco prevention, control, and advocacy initiatives, and the implementation of tobacco-free policies across all school, college, and university campuses.

Fig.13 Trends in Youth Smoking and Vaping Prevalence (Ages 11–17), 2020–2024
 Source: National Immunization Survey-Teen (NIS_Teen)



Adult smoking rates across Florida continue to vary by county, though statewide trends show ongoing declines.

The Florida Cancer Plan 2026–2030 seeks to reduce adult cigarette baseline of 8.4% to 7% by December 2030 through media campaigns promoting cessation, efforts to reduce barriers to evidence-based treatment, and health system changes that expand tobacco screening and cessation support.

Fig.14 Percentage of Current Adult Smokers by County
 Source: CDC Places/BRFSS, 2022

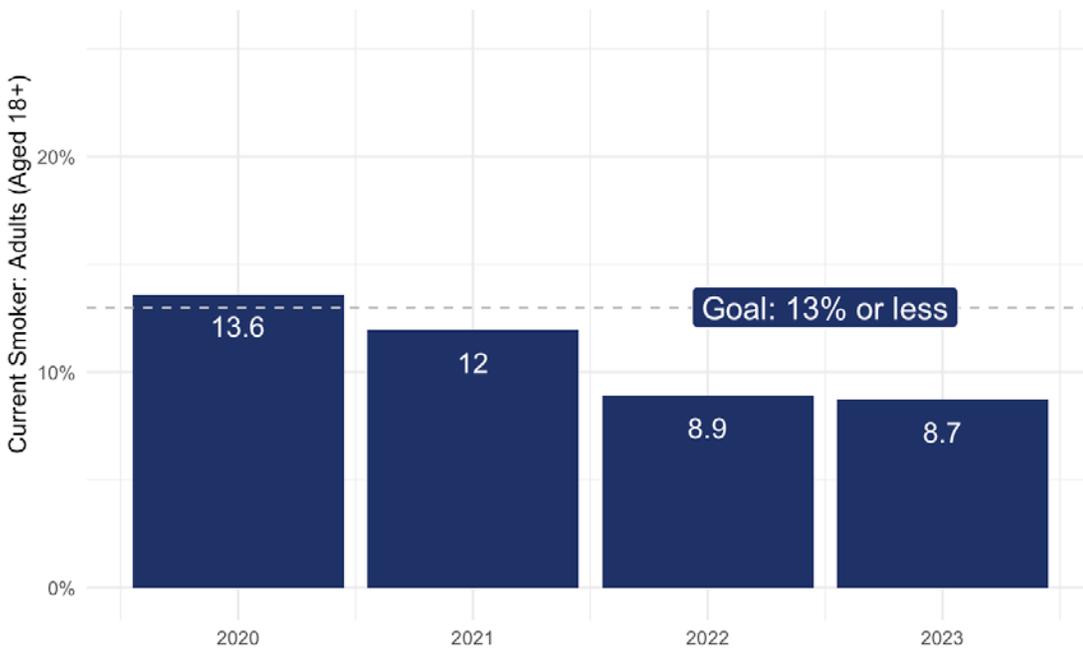


Fig.15 Trend in Current Adult Smoking Prevalence (Ages 18+), 2020–2023

Community Implementation Pilot Projects

The 2025–2026 Community Implementation Pilot Projects were funded by Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Moffitt Cancer Center, UFHCC, and Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center, in partnership with the Florida Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (FCCCP), to advance implementation of the Florida Cancer Plan 2020–2025. This funding supports Cancer Control Regional Collaboratives in translating statewide cancer goals into locally driven, evidence-based action by addressing region-specific cancer needs, strengthening cross-sector partnerships, and building capacity for sustainable cancer prevention and related efforts across Florida.

Southeast Florida Cancer Control Collaborative (SEFCCC)

SEFCCC strengthened lung cancer screening and hepatitis C prevention through clinical partnerships and culturally appropriate education.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

Clinical partnerships with UM Sylvester and the Global Liver Institute; culturally tailored lung and liver cancer education; provider and community webinar planning; referral pathway development and evaluation planning.

FLORIDA CANCER PLAN OBJECTIVE ALIGNMENT:

- **Objective 10.1 & 10.2:** Activities supported earlier lung cancer diagnosis and improved measurement of screening participation through provider education and webinars.
- **Objective 14.1 & 14.2:** Hepatitis C education and referral pathways supported expanded screening and linkage to care.

Southwest Florida Cancer Control Collaborative (SWFCCC)

SWFCCC expanded hepatitis C screening access and breast cancer screening outreach in underserved communities.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

Mobile hepatitis C screening protocols, staff training, referral systems, patient education, 18-county breast cancer outreach, and seven screening events.

FLORIDA CANCER PLAN OBJECTIVE ALIGNMENT:

- **Objective 14.1 & 14.2:** Mobile screening, tracking systems, and referrals supported hepatitis C screening measurement and linkage to care.
- **Objective 11.1 & 11.2:** Data-driven outreach and screening events supported early-stage breast cancer diagnosis and increased mammography participation.

East Central Florida Cancer Control Collaborative (ECFCCC)

ECFCCC implemented integrated breast and colorectal cancer education using in-person and virtual tools.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

Giant Colon Experience outreach, virtual colon tour development, breast self-exam simulator planning, and a sustainability loan model.

FLORIDA CANCER PLAN OBJECTIVE ALIGNMENT:

- **Objective 11.1 & 11.2:** Breast self-exam education and simulator planning supported early detection and screening awareness.
- **Objective 12.1 & 12.2:** Colon education and virtual tour development promoted colorectal cancer screening and early diagnosis.

North Central Florida Cancer Control Collaborative (NCFCCC)

NCFCCC increased colorectal cancer screening awareness through community education and clinical partnerships.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

Three community colon tours, FQHC and FBCCEDP partnerships, mammography integration when available, virtual tour development, and evaluation improvements.

FLORIDA CANCER PLAN OBJECTIVE ALIGNMENT:

- **Objective 12.1 & 12.2:** Community tours and virtual tools promoted early-stage colorectal cancer diagnosis and screening participation.

Northeast Florida Cancer Control Collaborative (NEFCCC)

NEFCCC delivered breast cancer education through two Breast Brunch Ever events in Nassau and Duval Counties, reaching 77 women.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

Physician and survivor engagement, hands-on self-exam training, screening resource distribution, and partnership expansion.

FLORIDA CANCER PLAN OBJECTIVE ALIGNMENT:

- **Objective 11.1 & 11.2:** Education and hands-on training supported early-stage breast cancer diagnosis and mammography screening participation.

Southeast Florida Cancer Control Collaborative (SEFCCC)

PROJECTS: Lung & Liver Cancer Initiatives	KEY ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS: Education tracks, webinars, referral pathways	FLORIDA CANCER PLAN OBJECTIVES 10.1, 10.2, 14.1, 14.2
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Southwest Florida Cancer Control Collaborative (SWFCCC)

PROJECTS: HCV Screening; Breast Outreach	KEY ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS: Mobile screening, referrals, 18-county outreach, 7 events	FLORIDA CANCER PLAN OBJECTIVES 14.1, 14.2, 11.1, 11.2
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East Central Florida Cancer Control Collaborative (ECFCCC)

PROJECTS: Screening Synergy Project	KEY ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS: Giant Colon, virtual tour, breast simulator	FLORIDA CANCER PLAN OBJECTIVES 11.1, 11.2, 12.1, 12.2
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North Central Florida Cancer Control Collaborative (NCFCCC)

PROJECTS: Small Town Giant Colon	KEY ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS: 3 events, ~75 participants, virtual tour	FLORIDA CANCER PLAN OBJECTIVES 12.1, 12.2
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Northeast Florida Cancer Control Collaborative (NEFCCC)

PROJECTS: Breast Brunch Ever	KEY ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS: 2 events, 77 women reached	FLORIDA CANCER PLAN OBJECTIVES 11.1, 11.2
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CCRAB

Recommendations for 2026

In accordance with its statutory advisory role, CCRAB recommends the following priority actions for Florida in 2026:

1**Expand Screening Where Mortality Burden Is Highest**

Scale lung and colorectal cancer screening programs statewide, with emphasis on rural counties.

2**Reduce Late-Stage Diagnosis**

Invest in navigation, diagnostic follow-up systems, and health system accountability for timely screening completion.

3**Modernize Florida's Cancer Data Infrastructure**

Strengthen outpatient case capture, molecular reporting, and linkage with Medicaid and HIE systems.

4**Accelerate Cervical Cancer Elimination**

Increase HPV vaccination uptake toward 80% through provider prompts, school-based strategies, and community outreach.

5**Sustain Tobacco Prevention and Youth Vaping Reduction**

Maintain strong statewide prevention campaigns and strengthen cessation system integration.

6**Invest in Regional Implementation Capacity**

Provide recurring support for Cancer Control Regional Collaboratives as Florida's delivery infrastructure for equity-driven cancer control.

7**Protect Florida's Research and Innovation Pipeline**

Sustain funding for Bankhead Coley and James & Esther King programs to accelerate translation of discoveries into survival gains.

FLORIDA CANCER CONTROL & RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP



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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	https://hpcnef.org/nefcp/
East Central Region	https://www.healthcouncilecf.org
Southwest Region	www.swfccc.weebly.com/about.html
Southeast Region	www.healthcouncil.org/sfccc

Florida Comprehensive Cancer Control Programs
<https://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-data/cancer-research/>

Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP)
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/cancer/breast-cancer/>
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/cancer/cervical-cancer/>

Florida Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP)
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/cancer/colon-cancer/>

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