



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.

The 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 variabilities 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

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.

RESOURCES & INTERACTIVE DATA

Comprehensive plan details and the complete framework for Florida's cancer control priorities can be accessed via the [Florida Cancer Plan 2026–2030](#)

The [CCRAB Data Dashboards](#) extend this framework by offering interactive visualizations to monitor progress and explore cancer-related data at the state, county, and regional collaborative levels, with filters for key demographic characteristics. Data is drawn from authoritative sources, including the U.S. Census, the Florida Cancer Data System (FCDS), and Florida Department of Health surveillance