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Cancer in African American men in South Carolina

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Cancer In African American Men In South Carolina



DHEC Data Helps Cancer Screening Outreach Efforts for African American Men In June 2022, the SC General Assembly awarded the SC Cancer Alliance \$500,000 to implement recommendations outlined in the Data Brief- Cancer in African American Men report. This report was created with information from Cancer in South Carolina: 20-year Trends for Incidence, Mortality, and Survival report, a document developed by the SC Central Cancer Registry (SCCCR), South Carolina Cancer Alliance, and DHEC's Division of Cancer Prevention. DHEC's Office of Vital Statistics also provides data for the Registry.

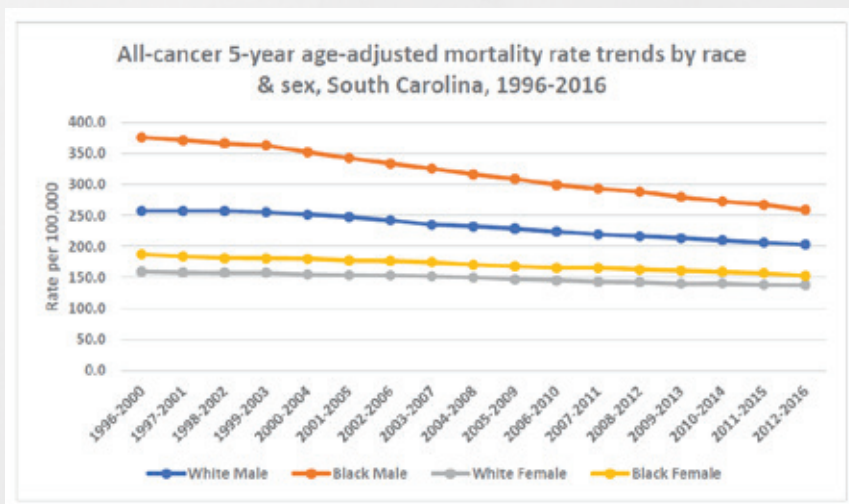
The data included in this report summarized 20 years of population-based state cancer reporting between 1996 and 2015. It included information by mortality and relative survival for the major cancers occurring in the Palmetto State, plus all cancers combined, providing a data-driven foundation to guide statewide cancer prevention and control efforts.

With 20 years of high-quality data, a major focus of this report was on trends over time. Disparities in the occurrence of cancer is a major concern, so breaking down the data by gender and by racial or ethnic groups is a key step to track progress in addressing cancer disparities.

While overall the report revealed favorable downward trends, the data also revealed areas that require renewed efforts. These areas include slightly increased rates of lung cancer and breast cancer in females, the pronounced increase in rates of melanoma of the skin, and that the burden of cancer is highest among the state's African American men.

Cancer in African American Men in South Carolina Report

In response to the 20-Year Trends Report, SC Central Cancer Registry, South Carolina Cancer Alliance, and Division of Cancer Prevention and Control developed the Cancer in African American Men in South Carolina Report in 2019 noting African American men experience substantially higher rates of cancer incidence and mortality compared to other population groups. It was the first SC-based publication produced that focused on the factors contributing to these specific disparities.



The report addressed the issue and supports the urgent need to address cancer disparities and to ensure that statewide cancer prevention and control efforts focus on this priority population. The report and the supplemental material were structured to provide:

- Data that supports the cancer incidence, mortality, and survival disparities in African American men.
- Supporting factors contributing to the fundamental causes of cancer in African American men as defined in the socioecological framework.
- Evidence-based recommendations for action.

As a result of the Cancer in African American Men in South Carolina Report, the South Carolina Cancer Alliance created the Health Equity Project with Centers for Disease Control Grant CDC-RFA-DP17-1701 and private funding. The Project awarded six grants for community organizations to improve health equity in South Carolina. Applicants' goals and objectives were to align with those of the 20-Year Trends Report, Cancer in African American in South Carolina Report, and Healthy People 2030. Grant outcomes were over 80 patient and provider educational events, 55 educational training sessions for African American males, and three healthcare providers who established policies to help increase cancer screening referrals targeted African American males.

In addition to the Cancer in African American Report follow up, the SC Cancer Alliance and the South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health (SCIMPH) released a data brief highlighting the burden of cancer on African American men in June 2021. The South Carolina Cancer Alliance utilized the data from the SCCR and recommendations outlined in the SCIMPH data brief in the request for funding from the South Carolina General Assembly. Per the request, the SC General Assembly awarded the Alliance \$500,000 in to address actions targeting African American men and cancer.

Recommendations Moving Forward

With the \$500,000 awarded by the General Assembly, the SC Cancer Alliance will implement the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

Improve access to screening services and early detection care by expanding safety net programs. Expansion of safety net screening and early detection programs results in earlier identification of cancer, timely access to treatments, and lower mortality rates.

The Alliance will award medical provider grants to develop stop-gap funds to increase cancer screening in African American men.

Recommendation 2

Engage community health workers with customized resources to target African American men to reinforce the need for ongoing screenings and early detection services. Recruiting community health workers to educate patients about their health, the need for screenings and early identification, and assisting in overcoming structural barriers is an evidence-based method to improve health outcomes.

The Alliance will implement a lay navigation program to link patients with available prevention and early detection services.

Recommendation 3

Mobilize communities to help increase cancer education and outreach efforts to targeted populations. Community engagement is imperative when connecting with African American men and addressing barriers they face when accessing cancer screening services.

The Alliance will:

- Coordinate local community-based screening events to ensure screening services are optimized
- Engage and mobilize community members to promote cancer prevention and early detection in designated areas determined using data from the SC Central Cancer Registry
- Offer financial support to various groups to reduce structural barriers to cancer screenings
- Annually educate the community on the social determinates of health and the importance of addressing health disparities

All efforts will be evaluated annually to ensure optimized outcomes and accountability.

For more information on African American Men and Cancer in SC collaborative efforts, please [click here](#).

For more information about South Carolina Cancer Alliance, visit www.sccancer.org or call (803) 708-4732.