

# Burden of Cancer in Connecticut

This section of the Plan describes the impact of cancer on the people of Connecticut. Cancer incidence and mortality rates and trends are presented. Cancer-related risk behaviors in Connecticut residents are also summarized.

It is estimated that there will be 22,910 new cancer cases and 6,400 cancer deaths in 2021<sup>i</sup>. There were 20,734 new cancer cases and 6,472 cancer deaths in 2018.<sup>ii</sup>

Connecticut's overall cancer mortality rate is 134 per 100,000 persons, favorably comparing to that of the United States at 149 per 100,000.<sup>iii</sup> However, Connecticut experiences concerning disparities when data are broken down by race and ethnicity, as well as by income and geography.

## Most Commonly Diagnosed Cancers by Site in Connecticut (both sexes)

	Incidence (New Cases, 2018)	Estimated New Cases, 2021	Deaths (2019)	Estimated Deaths, 2021
All Sites	20,734	22,910	6,496	6,400
Female Breast	3245	3,500	440	420
Lung and Bronchus	2560	2750	1401	1,350
Prostate	2784	3,160	385	390
Colon and Rectum	1586	1,560	505	440
Urinary Bladder	1066	1,180	219	
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	869	1,010	221	230
Melanoma of the Skin	838	1,300	89	80
Pancreas	669	730	513	550
Liver		480		320
Brain and Other Nervous System		290		210

2018 and 2019 data from Connecticut Tumor Registry

## DISPARITIES ALERT (2009–2018 data)

### Incidence and Mortality Disparities

- Among women in Connecticut, the incidence rate for all cancers combined was highest in non-Hispanic white women (453 per 100,000 women) and lowest in non-Hispanic Asian-Pacific Islander and non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native women (248 and 262 per 100,000 women, respectively)
- Among men in Connecticut, the incidence rate for all cancers combined was highest among non-Hispanic Black men and non-Hispanic white men (517 and 504 per 100,000 men, respectively) and lowest in non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native and non-Hispanic Asian-Pacific Islander men (195 and 226 per 100,000 men, respectively)
- The most commonly diagnosed cancer in Connecticut women was breast cancer, accounting for approximately three out of every ten cancers diagnosed. The incidence rate of breast cancer was highest in non-Hispanic white women (145 per 100,000 women), compared to 121 per 100,000 in Hispanic women and 129 per 100,000 in non-Hispanic Black women. However, despite the lower incidence rate in non-Hispanic Black women, the mortality rate was highest in this group (23 per 100,000 in non-Hispanic Black women, compared to 18 per 100,000 in non-Hispanic white women, 13 per 100,000 in Hispanic women, and 8 per 100,000 in non-Hispanic Asian-Pacific Islander women)
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- The mortality rate for all cancers combined was significantly higher in non-Hispanic Black men (196 per 100,000) than in any other racial/ethnic group
- There is a notable geographical disparity in cancer mortality rates across Connecticut's 8 counties. The rate in Windham County (168 deaths per 100,000 persons) is significantly higher than the other counties and is not experiencing the decreasing trend seen elsewhere

