Incidence and Mortality Rates

Incidence Rates

Tracking rates over time allows us to monitor where progress has been made and highlight areas for future efforts. For all cancers combined, the incidence rate decreased by 1.8% per year in men and 0.8% per year in women over the period 2009 – 2018. Significant declines in the incidence of new cancers were observed in colorectal cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, bladder cancer, leukemia, and melanoma in men; and in colorectal cancer, liver cancer, lung cancer, melanoma, bladder cancer, and thyroid cancer in women. In contrast, the incidence rates of cancer of the oral cavity and pharynx increased significantly in both men and women over the same period (by 1.8% and 1.6% per year, respectively).

Mortality Rates

The Connecticut mortality rate for all cancers combined was:

- 159 per 100,000 in men, down from 173 per 100,000
- 117 per 100,000 in women, down from 126 per 100,000 (2018 data compared to 2014 data)

Mortality rates continue to fall in both men and women in Connecticut. Over the period 2009 – 2018, the mortality rate for all cancers fell by 2% in both men and women. Significant reductions in mortality from stomach cancer, colorectal cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, bladder cancer, and leukemia have been observed in men. In women, mortality has fallen for colorectal cancer, lung cancer, melanoma, breast cancer, and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. These reductions are due in part to early detection of cancers as well as advances in treatment.

Stage of Cancer at Diagnosis

The stage of a cancer at diagnosis describes how far the cancer has spread at the time it was diagnosed and is an important prognostic indicator. Cancers usually respond better to treatment and have better outcomes when they are diagnosed at an early stage, whereas distant- or late-stage cancers, where the cancer has spread from the primary site to distant organs or lymph nodes, generally show poorer outcomes. About 1 in 20 breast cancers diagnosed in Connecticut women were late-stage cancers, while almost half of all lung cancers and around 1 in 5 colorectal cancers in Connecticut residents were diagnosed at a late stage. Since there are approved screening tests for these types of cancers, increased utilization of these tests can reduce mortality rates by finding the cancers at an earlier stage, when treatment is more successful.