

METHODS AND KEY RESOURCES

Grades and Rates

A: Grades

Grades were calculated by determining if the counties were significantly different from the state and national rates. Each county race/sex group was compared to the corresponding state and national rate. To provide a baseline measure of comparison, each county rate was compared to the state and national rate for Whites.

- A = County is significantly lower than the State and Nation
- B = County is significantly lower than either the State or Nation
- C = County is no different than the State and Nation
- D = County is significantly higher than either the State or Nation
- F = County is significantly higher than the State and Nation

Significance was determined by $p < 0.05$. The direction of significance was determined by the rate-ratio being higher or lower than “1.” P-values and rate ratios were calculated through SEER*Stat software and Excel using methods proposed by Fay (2006, Estimating Average Annual Percent Change for Disease Rates without Assuming Constant Change: Appendix A).

B: Age-Adjusted Rates:

All rates were age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Age-Adjustment allowed us to control for the effect of age within multiple age-grouped populations when calculating rates of new cases and death rates. Confounding effects due to age, when comparing rates, can be reduced when age-adjusted rates are calculated to a standard population, as we have done.

Key Resources

South Carolina Central Cancer Registry (SCCCR)

<http://www.scdhec.gov/co/phsis/biostatistics/SCCCR/SCCCRmain.htm>

Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER)

<http://www.seer.cancer.gov/>

National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR)

<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/>