

Data Sources

SC Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFSS). The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System is a state-based surveillance system administered by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Risk factor and screening data from BRFSS were used as a baseline to guide the objectives for this comprehensive cancer plan. The majority of the BRFSS data were drawn from the 2003 Survey. Optional questions, such as examination for oral cancer, are included on an alternating or episodic basis. Baseline data on this issue were drawn from the 2000 BRFSS survey. (http://www.scdhec.gov/hs/epidata/brfss_index.htm)

SC Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS) provides prevalence data on health risks for students in grades 9-12 in South Carolina, including tobacco use data. This information was used as baseline data for cancer plan objectives in Cancer Prevention and Advocacy/Policy. Note that the latest complete YRBS survey conducted in South Carolina was in 1999. (<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/yrbss/SelHealthTopic.asp?Loc=SC>)

SC Central Cancer Registry (SCCCR). The South Carolina Central Cancer Registry is located within the Division of Public Health Statistics and Information Services (PHSIS) of the Department of Health and Environmental Control. Incidence and mortality data from the SCCCR were used throughout this report. This information was generously provided through a pre-release of the SCCCR South Carolina Facts and Figures, 2004-2005. Any errors in interpretation are the responsibility of the authors of this report and not the SCCCR. Because health disparities are one of the key priorities of this plan, the SCCA requested specific data on cancer disparities by race and gender, as well as disparities in stage at diagnosis for the Health Disparity section of the report. (<http://www.scdhec.net/co/phsis/biostatistics/SCCCR/scccrmain.htm>)

SC Cancer Alliance (SCCA) *SC Cancer Report Card* was used to compare South Carolina incidence and mortality rates and corresponding national rates, by race and gender. This information was especially critical in discussions of health disparities. In addition, a special survey on transportation issues for radiology patients in South Carolina was also conducted by the SCCA and was used to develop Patient Care objectives in this plan. (<http://www.sccanceralliance.org/>)

NOTE: Cancer rates, and comparisons between rates related to race/ethnicity and gender, will vary slightly by source and the time period used as a basis (for example, 1998-2001 vs. 1998 data alone). Cancers with low numbers of cases are particularly susceptible to variations in incidence rates.