

# PINELLAS COUNTY CANCER PROFILE

2017

## FAST FACTS

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Cancer's ranking among causes of death in Florida during 2015. The overall death rate due to cancer increased from 2014.<sup>1</sup>

22.9

Percent of total deaths due to cancer in Pinellas County during 2015.<sup>3</sup>

185.2

Cancer death rate per 100,000 black residents in Pinellas, compared to 159.2 per 100,000 white residents, in 2015.<sup>3</sup>

51.6

Percentage of Pinellas women aged 40-74 years who received a mammogram during 2013.<sup>2</sup>

57.1

Percentage of Pinellas adults aged 50 and older who have received a colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy in the past five years, as of 2013.<sup>2</sup>

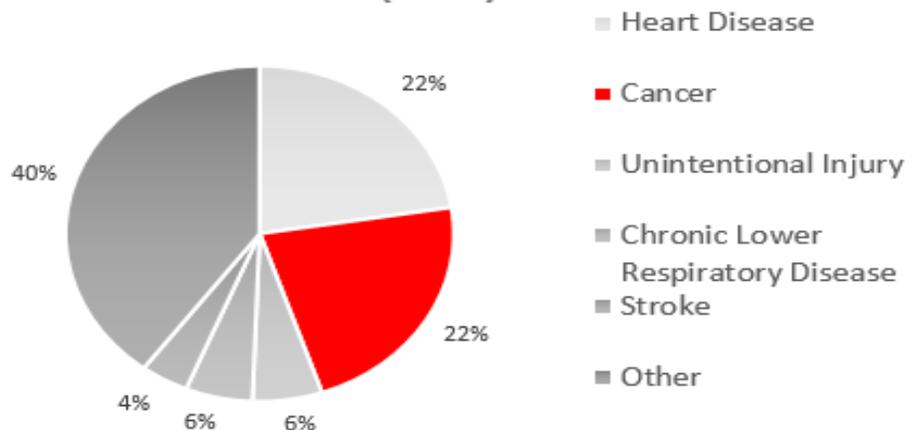
## CANCER PREVENTION & RISK 101

Anything that increases your chance of developing cancer is called a **cancer risk factor**; anything that decreases your chance of developing cancer is called a **cancer protective factor**.

Some **risk factors** for cancer can be avoided, but many cannot. For example, both smoking and inheriting certain genes are risk factors for some types of cancer, but only smoking can be avoided.<sup>4</sup>

Some **protective factors** that we can usually control include: maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly, eating a balanced diet, and avoiding secondhand smoke and other

Leading Causes of Death in Pinellas County  
(2015)

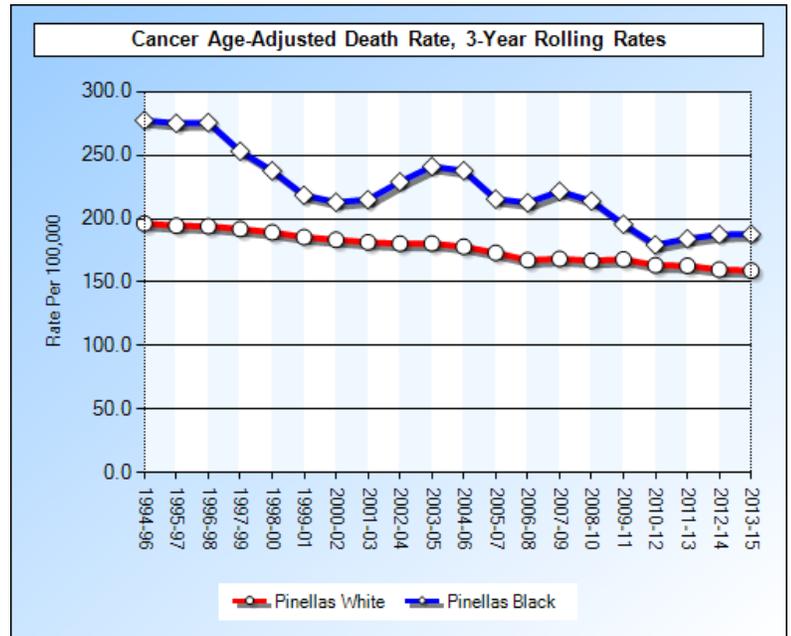


## Why is cancer a public health concern?

Public health focuses on the impact of cancer on the entire population. A public health approach to cancer is largely preventive; it might include promoting access to healthcare, safe places to exercise, routine health screenings, a nutritious diet, and community education. The public health approach is significantly different from that of clinical professionals, who focus primarily on treating individuals *after* they become sick or injured.<sup>5</sup>

# CANCER DISPARITIES

- Although cancer death rates are decreasing overall, the racial disparity in Pinellas County is striking.
- Many variables contribute to disparities in cancer incidence. These include risk factors that are experienced disproportionately by the black community, such as lack of health care coverage, low socioeconomic status, and unequal access to improvements in cancer treatment.<sup>6</sup>
- Often, these factors are known as “social determinants of health.”



## CASE STUDY: HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS

**The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) can cause cervical cancer in women and oropharynx cancer and others in males. However, there is now a reliable method to reduce infection: the HPV vaccine.**

**The vaccine provides close to 100% protection against pre-cancers, and is most effective when given prior to HPV exposure.**

**The CDC recommends the vaccine for all preteens, male and female. Florida currently has the lowest rate for vaccination against HPV in the nation.<sup>7</sup>**

**STATE OF THE UNION**

# HPV

HPV can lead to 6 types of deadly cancers. Almost everyone will become infected with the virus at some point, making it the common cold of cancer.

Source: <http://vaccinateyourfamily.org/preteens-and-teens/disease/human-papillomavirus-hpv>

**VACCINATE YOUR FAMILY**  
A PROGRAM OF EVERY CHILD BY TWO

Revised January 2017

<sup>1</sup> 2015 Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report. <http://www.flpublichealth.com/VSBOOK/pdf/2015/Deaths.pdf> Accessed 1/3/2017.

<sup>2</sup> 2013 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey. <http://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/survey-data/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system/reports/index.html>. Accessed 1/3/2017.

<sup>3</sup> Florida CHARTS. [www.floridacharts.com](http://www.floridacharts.com). Accessed 1/4/2017.

<sup>4</sup> NCI Cancer Prevention Overview. <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/prevention/overview/patient/page3>. Accessed 1/4/2017.

<sup>5</sup> CDC Cancer Prevention and Control. [http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/survivorship/what\\_cdc\\_is\\_doing/action\\_plan.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/survivorship/what_cdc_is_doing/action_plan.htm). Accessed 1/4/2017.

<sup>6</sup> Cancer Health Disparities Fact Sheet. <http://www.cancer.gov/aboutnci/organization/crchd/cancer-health-disparities-fact-sheet>. Accessed 1/4/2017.

<sup>7</sup> CDC Vaccines and Immunizations. <http://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/questions-answers.html>. Accessed 1/4/2017.

