Colorectal Cancer in South Carolina

What is colorectal cancer?

Cancer is a disease in which cells in the body grow out of control. When cancer starts in the colon or rectum, it is called *colorectal cancer*. Sometimes it is called *colon cancer*, for short.

Risk factors[1]

- ✓ Age is the number one risk factor for colorectal cancer. Your risk of getting colorectal cancer increases as you get older. About 90% of cases occur in people who are 50 years old or older.
- ✓ Additional risk factors include: inflammatory bowel disease, family history of colorectal cancer, generic syndromes such as familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) or hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer (Lynch syndrome)

Signs and symptoms[1]

- Symptoms of colorectal cancer may include blood in or on stool, stomach aches, pain, or cramps that don't go away, unexplained weight loss.

Early detection[1]

Several screening tests can be used to find polyps or colorectal cancer. Several colorectal cancer screening tests available including stool tests, flexible sigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy, and CT Colonography (Virtual Colonoscopy). Talk to your doctor about which test is right for you.

South Carolina Quick Facts

- Colorectal cancer is the *4th most commonly* diagnosed cancer overall.
- It is also the *2nd most common* cause of cancer deaths.
- The incidence (33%) and mortality rate (47%) among men is higher than women.
- The incidence and mortality rate for all race/sex groups has declined since the mid 1990's.
- The mortality rate for black men remains the highest among all groups. Black men have also seen the smallest decrease in mortality since 1996 (27%).

Colorectal cancer facts in South Carolina

- Colorectal cancer is the *4th most commonly diagnosed cancer and the 2nd leading cause of cancer death* among both *men and women* in South Carolina, as well as nationally.[1]

Incidence (rate of new cases):

Figure 1. Male Colorectal Cancer Incidence, 2013-2017

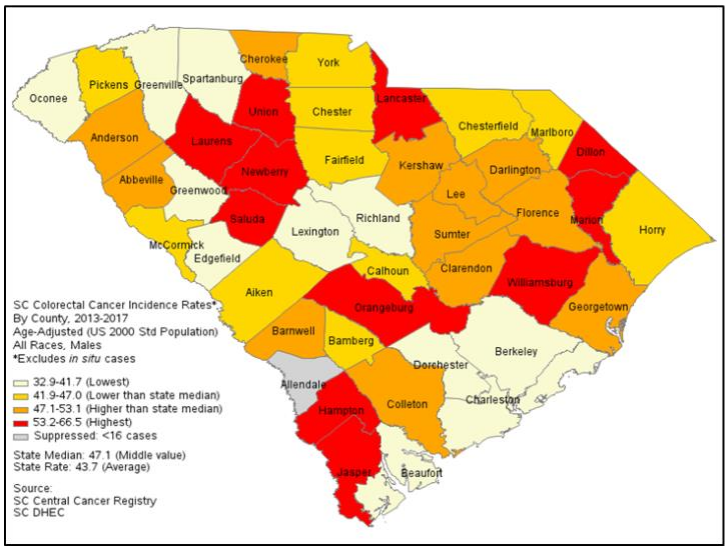
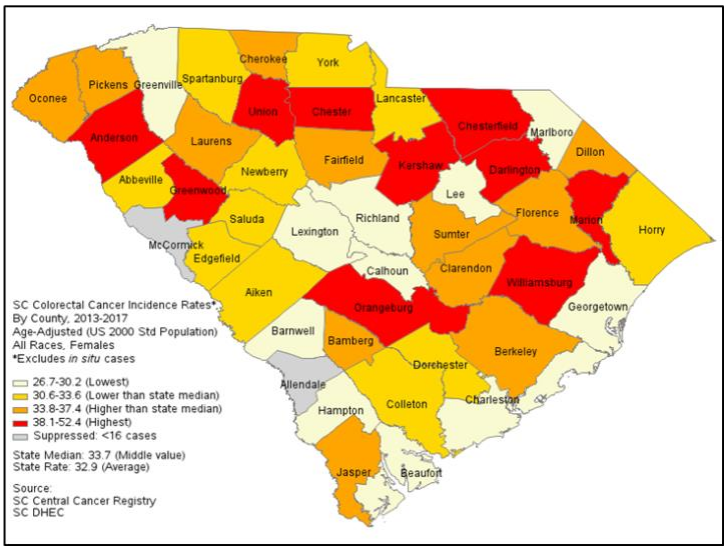


Figure 2. Female Colorectal Cancer Incidence, 2013-2017



- The South Carolina colorectal cancer incidence rate is the same as the national rate (37.8 cases/100,000). South Carolina ranks 29th nationally. [2,3]
- Compared to the US, incidence rates for colorectal cancer in South Carolina are slightly higher for men (43.7 vs. 43.2 cases/100,000) and for slightly lower women (32.9 vs. 33.2 cases/100,000).[2,3]
- Figures 1 & 2 display colorectal cancer incidence rates among men and women in South Carolina's 46 counties.[2] Counties in dark red have the highest incidence rates of colorectal cancer. Hampton (66.5/100,00), Saluda (65.8/100,000), and Newberry (63.8/100,000) counties have the highest incidence rates among men. Marion (52.4/100,000), Williamsburg (49.6/100,000), and Union (44.7/100,000) have the highest incidence rates for colorectal cancer among women.[2]
- In South Carolina, black men experience higher incidence rates for colorectal cancer than white men (2013-2017: 53.3 cases vs. 41.2 cases per 100,000 men, respectively). Similarly, incidence rates are higher for black women compared to white women (2013-2017: 36.7 cases vs. 31.5 cases per 100,000 women, respectively) (Figure 6).

Mortality:

- The South Carolina colorectal cancer mortality rate is slightly higher than the national rate (14.3 vs 13.9, respectively). South Carolina ranks 23rd nationally.[2,3]

Figure 3. Colorectal Cancer Mortality, 2013-2017

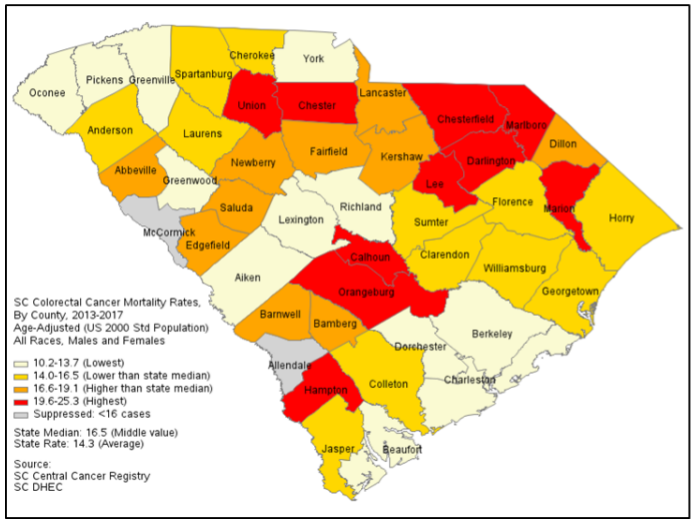
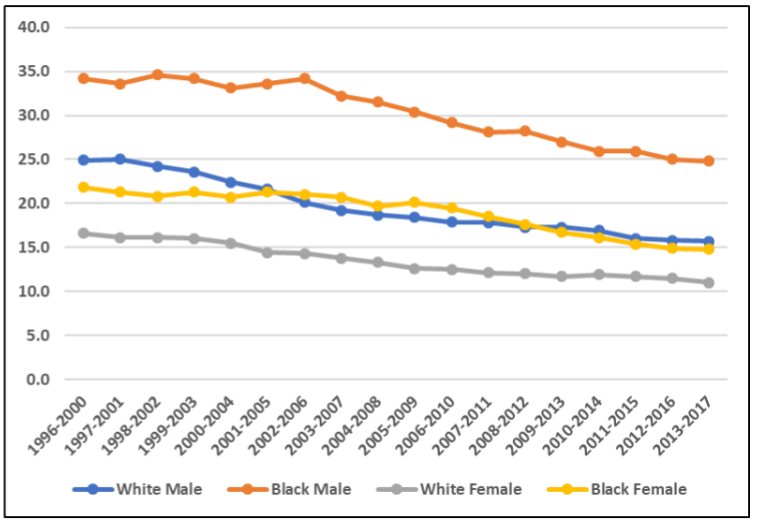
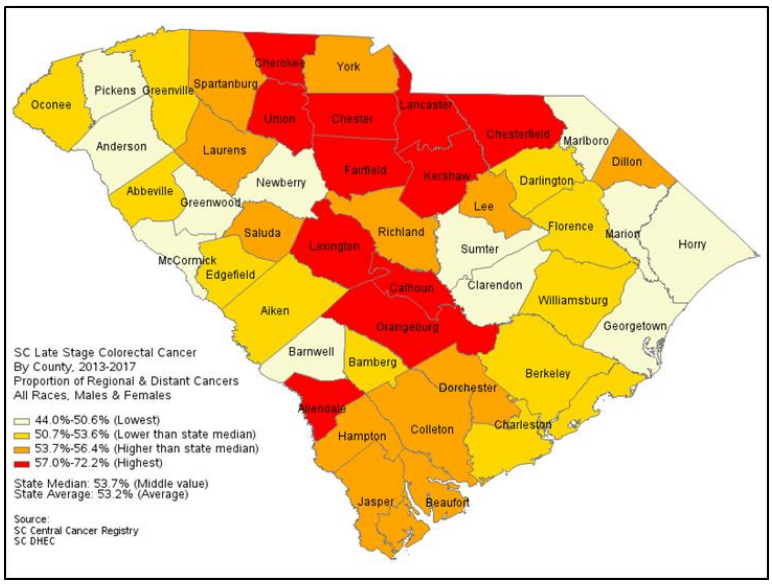


Figure 4. Colorectal Cancer Mortality Rate Trends by Race and Sex, 1996-2017



- The colorectal cancer mortality rate (2013-2017) among men is higher in South Carolina when compared to the U.S. (17.4 vs. 16.6/100,000).[3] The colorectal cancer mortality rate for South Carolina women is the same as the U.S. rate (11.8/100,000).[3]
- Figure 3 displays colorectal cancer mortality rates among South Carolina's 46 counties.[2] Counties in dark red have the highest mortality rates. Lee (25.3/100,000), Union (23.6/100,000), and Marion (22.9/100,000) counties have the highest mortality rates in South Carolina.
- Figure 4 displays colorectal cancer mortality rate trends. Mortality has declined for all groups over this time period. White males have seen the largest decline (36.9%), followed by white females (33.7%), black females (32.1%), and black males (27.5%).[2]

Figure 5. Colorectal Cancer Cases Diagnosed at Late Stage, 2013-2017



- Black men experience higher colorectal cancer mortality rates than any other group (24.8/100,000) (Figure 7).

Survival:

- Nationally, the five-year relative survival rate for colorectal cancer is 90% when diagnosed at local stage of the disease.[1] In South Carolina, approximately 36% of all colorectal cancers are diagnosed at local stage of this disease, and the five-year relative survival is 90%.[2]

- Figure 5 shows percentage of colorectal cancers diagnosed at late stage in each of the 46 counties in South Carolina. Allendale, Chester, and Fairfield counties have the highest percentage of late stage colorectal cancers.[2]

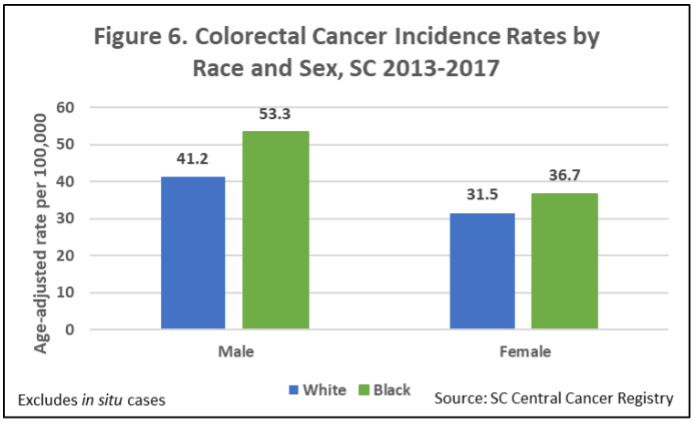
- Blacks are slightly more likely to be diagnosed with late stage colorectal cancer than whites (55% and 53%, respectively) (Figure 8).[2]

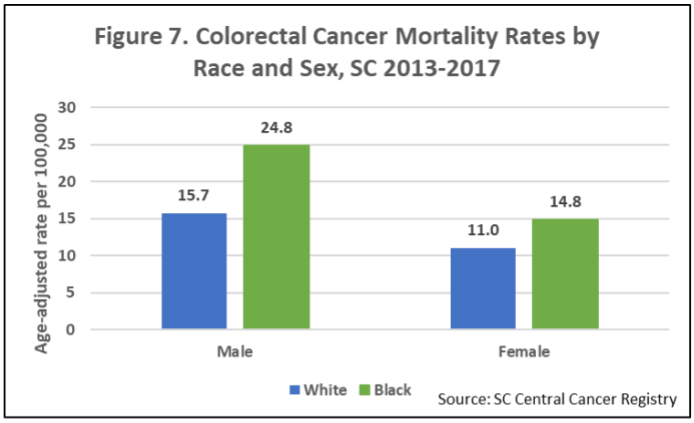
Economic burden:

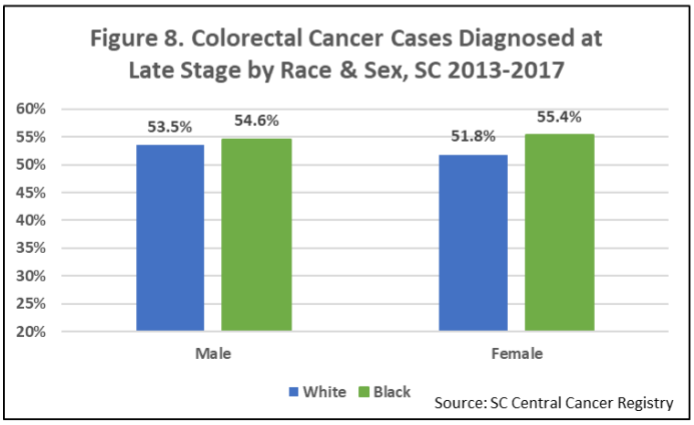
- Primary diagnoses of colorectal cancer for inpatient hospitalizations cost nearly $185 million dollars in South Carolina during 2018:

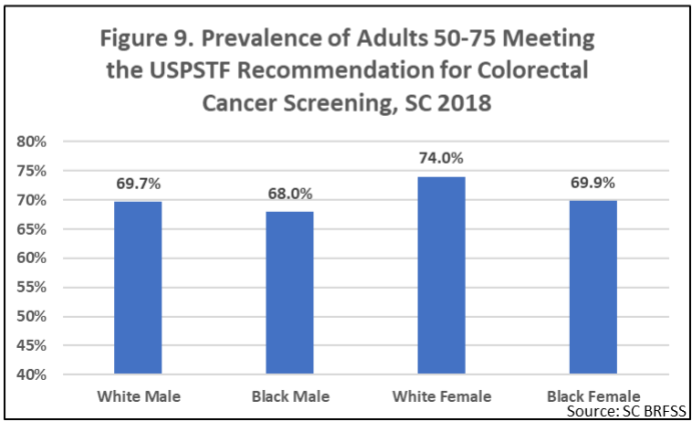
  - ✓ Inpatient hospitalizations: 1,966 people
  - ✓ Average length of stay: 6.6 days
  - ✓ Average charge per stay: $81,842.[6]

Racial differences:









[1] American Cancer Society, Cancer Facts & Figures 2020. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2020.
[2] South Carolina Central Cancer Registry, Bureau of Population Health Data Analytics & Informatics, Dept. of Health & Environmental Control, based on combined data from 2013-2017.
[3] National Program of Cancer Registries and Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results SEER*Stat Database: NPCR and SEER Incidence - U.S. Cancer Statistics 2001-2017 Public Use Research Database, 2019 Submission (2001-2017), United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute. Released June 2020. Accessed at www.cdc.gov/cancer/uscs/public-use..
[4] South Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Bureau of Population Health Data Analytics & Informatics, Dept. of Health & Environmental Control, 2019.
[5] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Data. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019.
[6] South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, Hospital Discharge Patient-Level Dataset

For more information on cancer prevention and management, please contact:
Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, SC DHEC. 2100 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201 | 803.898.1615 | http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/Cancer/

American Cancer Society: www.cancer.org | 1.800.227.2345

For more information on cancer data and statistics for South Carolina, please contact:
South Carolina Central Cancer Registry, SC DHEC. 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201 | 803.898.8000 | cancer.registry@dhec.sc.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/