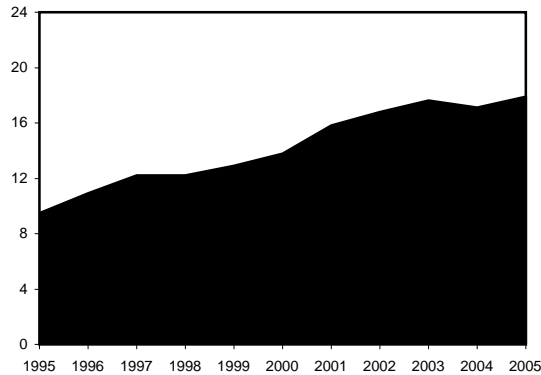


MELANOMA of the SKIN in Pennsylvania

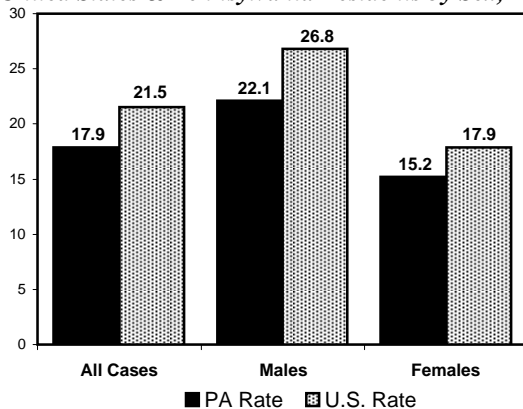
INCIDENCE:

*Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates, Melanoma of the Skin
Pennsylvania Residents, 1995-2005*



From 1995 to 2005, invasive melanoma of the skin increased dramatically, from 1,245 to 2,494 cases. The age-adjusted incidence rate increased from 9.5 to 17.9 per 100,000. The highest number of cases and the highest rate occurred in 2005. Recent increases can be attributed to better detection, awareness, and additional reporting by non-hospital sources. The vast majority of skin melanomas occur among whites, and excess exposure to sunlight is a major risk factor. Incidence rates have been on the increase for both males and females.

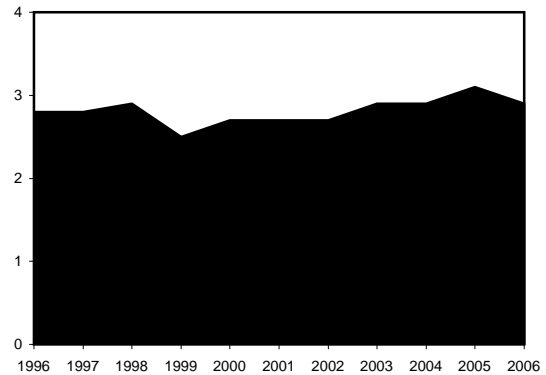
*Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates, Melanoma of the Skin
United States & Pennsylvania Residents by Sex, 2005*



The bar chart above shows that Pennsylvania's age-adjusted incidence rates for invasive melanoma of the skin among all residents, males and females were lower than comparable United States rates for 2005. The state rate for all cases (17.9) was 16.7 percent lower than the United States rate of 21.5. Rates for skin melanoma were dramatically higher among males than females in both Pennsylvania and the United States.

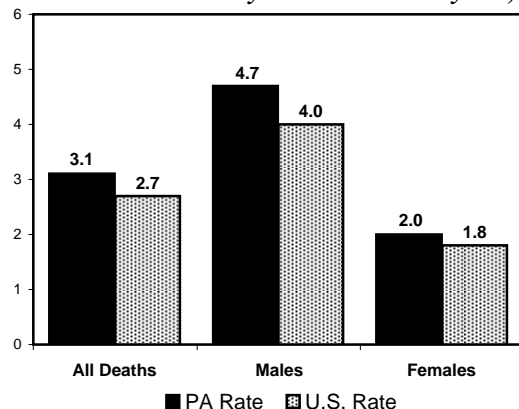
MORTALITY:

*Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates, Melanoma of the Skin
Pennsylvania Residents, 1996-2006*



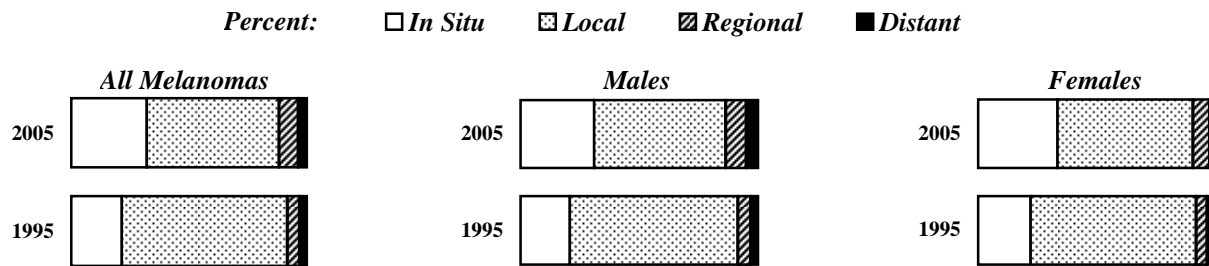
The annual age-adjusted mortality rates for melanoma of the skin have not changed much during the period of 1996 to 2006 (see chart above). In 2006 there were 416 deaths due to skin melanoma for an age-adjusted rate of 2.9 per 100,000. By comparison, there were 376 deaths for an age-adjusted rate of 2.8 in 1996. Deaths due to skin melanoma were more common among men than women. The age-adjusted mortality rates among both males and females have also shown no major trends between 1996 and 2006.

*Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates, Melanoma of the Skin
United States & Pennsylvania Residents by Sex, 2005*



In 2005, Pennsylvania's age-adjusted mortality rates for melanoma of the skin were slightly higher than the United States rates for all deaths, males and females (see chart above). In addition, the mortality rates for melanoma of the skin among men in both Pennsylvania and United States were more than twice the mortality rates among women.

STAGE of DISEASE at Time of Diagnosis by Sex, 1995 and 2005



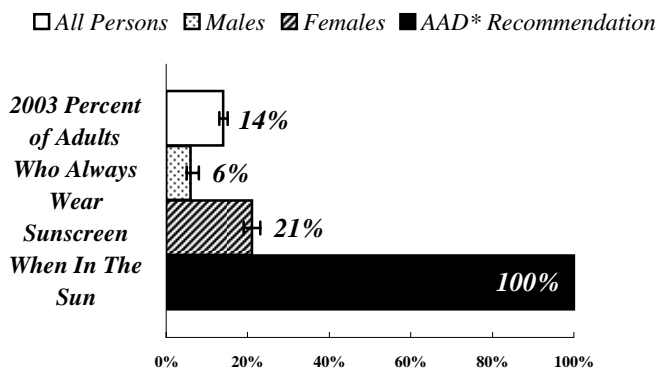
ALL MELANOMAS - Between 1995 and 2005, the percent of in situ diagnoses increased dramatically for melanomas of the skin among all residents while local stage cases declined. In 1995, only 21.3 percent of all skin melanomas were detected at the in situ stage. By 2005, this percentage was up to 32.1. Local stage cases declined from 70.4 percent in 1995 to 56.1 percent in 2005. Regional stage diagnoses increased slightly from 5.0 percent in 1995 to 7.9 percent in 2005. Distant stage diagnoses increased from 3.3 percent in 1995 to 3.9 percent in 2005. (Please note that the Pennsylvania Cancer Registry does not collect information on basal and squamous cell carcinomas of the skin).

MALES - Staging patterns between 1995 and 2005 among males diagnosed with melanoma of the skin were similar to those that occurred for all cases. In situ cases increased from 20.7 percent in 1995 to 31.0 percent in 2005. Localized melanomas decreased from 70.8 percent in 1995 to 55.1 percent in 2005. Regional stage cases increased slightly from 5.2 percent in 1995 to 8.7 percent in 2005. Distant stage cases increased from 3.3 percent in 1995 to 5.1 percent in 2005.

FEMALES - Among females, there was also a large increase in the percentage of in situ diagnoses (from 22.0 in 1995 to 33.4 in 2005). The majority of skin melanomas diagnosed among females occurred at the local stage of the disease (57.2 percent) but this 2005 figure was lower than the 1995 figure of 70.0 percent. Regional stage diagnoses increased slightly from 4.6 percent in 1995 to 7.0 percent in 2005. There was a decrease in distant stage diagnoses from 3.4 percent in 1995 to 2.4 percent in 2005.

NOTE: Percentages exclude unknowns.

BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR for Melanoma of the Skin by Sex Pennsylvania Adults, 2003



NOTE: The symbol represents the 95% confidence interval.

* AAD stands for the American Academy of Dermatology

NOTES: This pamphlet was produced by the Bureau of Health Statistics and Research, Pennsylvania Department of Health. The Bureau can be contacted by telephone (717-783-2548), FAX (717-772-3258) or in writing (555 Walnut St., 6th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101-1914). Web site is at www.health.state.pa.us/stats/. The Department is an equal opportunity provider of grants, contracts, services, and employment. Call the Department toll free at 1-877-PA-HEALTH. All the age-adjusted rates that appear here were calculated by the direct method using the 2000 United States standard million population. United States incidence rates are based on data collected by the SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results) program of the National Cancer Institute from nine cancer registries throughout the country which are considered to be reasonably representative subsets of the United States population.

The American Cancer Society recommends that any suspicious lesions or unusual moles should be seen by your primary doctor or by a dermatologist, a doctor who specializes in skin problems. It's important to check your own skin, preferably once a month.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES - Sun exposure can be minimized by using protective measures, including the use of sunscreen, staying in shade, and wearing protective clothing. According to 2003 results obtained from the statewide sample telephone survey conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 14 percent of Pennsylvania adults aged 18 and older said that they always wear sunscreen when being exposed to the sun. Males (6 percent) were much less likely to protect themselves from sun exposure than females (21 percent). The American Academy of Dermatology recommends that sunscreen is worn 100 percent of the time when being exposed to the sun. (Please note 2003 BRFSS survey questions on protective measures for sun exposure differ from the 1999 and 2002 survey and may not be comparable).

If you would like to learn more about the PA Department of Health's free public education programs on skin cancer, visit www.PACancerEducationNetwork.com

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