

CANCER FACTS & FIGURES

For African Americans

Pennsylvania, 2008



*Pennsylvania Cancer Registry
Bureau of Health Statistics and Research*



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Introduction

In an effort to improve risk assessment needs of cancer prevention programs, the Pennsylvania Department of Health has highlighted racial disparities among African Americans and Whites. The focus of this report includes a detailed comparison of cancer and behavioral risk statistics among African Americans and Whites, projected cancer cases and deaths, and analysis of age-adjusted cancer rates for Pennsylvania as compared to the U.S. The overall findings are summarized in the Data Highlights section. A Technical Notes section appears at the end of this report and includes information on the data sources, statistical methods, and data limitations.

The Bureau of Health Statistics and Research was inspired to generate this report by the American Cancer Society's publication *Cancer Facts and Figures for African Americans*. Although the basic concepts were similar, this report focuses on Pennsylvania cancer statistics in more detail. In particular, race disparities were identified by type of cancer, stage at the time of diagnosis, and behavioral risk factors. According to the American Cancer Society, race disparities among cancer statistics may actually represent socioeconomic disparities and unequal access to health care services.

The Bureau welcomes comments and suggestions on the content and format of this report. Staff members are available to answer questions regarding the report, including utilization and limitations of the data. Please address all comments, questions, requests for data, etc. to:

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This report and many other cancer and health statistics can be downloaded from the Department's health statistics web pages at www.health.state.pa.us/stats

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