



Vermont Cancer Registry

Age Adjusted Incidence rates of invasive thyroid cancer – Vermont and United States SEER 9 white, by year, per 100,000, 1996-2008.

Male				Female			
	US Rate	VT Rate	VT Count		US Rate	VT Rate	VT Count
1996-2008	5.1	4.7	189	1996-2008	14.4	13.6	579
1996	3.6	4.5	13	1996	9.8	4.8	15
1997	3.8	4.8	14	1997	10.3	9.5	30
1998	4.0	2.7	7	1998	10.4	11.0	35
1999	4.1	4.9	15	1999	11.0	13.6	44
2000	4.3	2.1	6	2000	11.7	9.4	30
2001	4.6	4.3	13	2001	12.7	8.3	26
2002	5.2	4.4	13	2002	14.2	12.0	39
2003	5.0	5.8	18	2003	15.5	11.4	38
2004	5.5	3.4	11	2004	15.9	17.2	58
2005	6.3	5.1	17	2005	17.1	20.2	68
2006	6.3	6.0	18	2006	17.7	19.2	66
2007	6.3	6.8	23	2007	19.7	19.3	65
2008	6.8	6.0	21	2008	20.8	20.2	65

- The thyroid cancer incidence rates among Vermont males and females are not statistically different from the U.S.
- From 1996 to 2008, the increase in the incidence of male thyroid cancer was statistically significant for the U.S. and Vermont.
- From 1996 to 2008, the increase in the incidence of female thyroid cancer was statistically significant for the U.S. and Vermont.

All rates are age adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.
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Technical Notes

Age Adjustment: All rates in this document are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. This allows the comparison of rates among populations having different age distributions by standardizing the age-specific rates in each population to one standard population.

Incidence: Incidence refers to the number or rate of newly diagnosed cases of cancer. The incidence rate is calculated as the number of new cancer cases diagnosed in the state during one year divided by the number of residents in the state during the same year. A policy change of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regarding sharing of VA cancer data has resulted in incomplete reporting of VA hospital cases in 2007 and 2008. (Previous years' analyses contained VA hospital cases.)

Small Numbers: Rates are not presented in this document if they are based on fewer than 6 cases. We do not usually calculate and publish statistics for small geographic areas (such as towns or a neighborhood) because rates are unreliable if they are based on small numbers of observations. When the rates are based on only a few cases, it is almost impossible to distinguish random fluctuation from true changes in the underlying risk of disease. This is particularly an issue within Vermont where we have a number of rural communities with relatively small populations. Therefore, the number of cases are combined across geographic areas, for example, calculating rates for a county instead of a town.

Statistical Significance: A statistically significant difference indicates that there is statistical evidence that there is a difference that is unlikely to have occurred by chance alone.

Trend: Refers to the general direction in which something under measurement moves over time.