

MISSISSIPPI Burden of Cancer

2025

This summary of the types, scope and human cost of cancer in our state, and the factors that drive cancer risk, will serve as a fundamental tool for planners to reduce the state's burden of cancer cases, deaths, and the damage to health it brings.



Mississippi State Department of Health

Mississippi Cancer Burden

- Over the past few decades cancer has been the **second leading cause of death** in the United States and Mississippi, accounting for more than **32,800 deaths** over the 5-year period from 2017-2021.
- The four most common cancer types in Mississippi are **prostate, breast, lung/bronchus, and colorectal**. Between 2017 and 2021, lung and bronchus cancer were responsible for the highest number of deaths (8,979) in Mississippi, followed by colorectal cancer (3,157 deaths), female breast cancer (2,319 deaths), and prostate cancer (1,812 deaths).
- The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be more than **17,820 new cancer cases and 6,740 cancer deaths** in 2025 in the state of Mississippi.
- The overall age-adjusted all-cancer **mortality rate** in Mississippi during 2018-2022 was 179.8 per 100,000 which was **23% higher** than that of the nation (USA: 146 per 100,000). By sex, the 2017-2021 age-adjusted cancer mortality rates for males and females in Mississippi were 226.6 and 149.6 per 100,000, respectively. Males reported more than 50% higher mortality due to cancers compared to females during this period.
- The age-adjusted cancer **incidence rates** for males and females in Mississippi were 540.3 and 418.0 per 100,000 persons, respectively (2017-2021). The rate for males **exceeded** the national rate of 488.3 per 100,000 persons by 11%.
- Mississippi data from 2022 on cancer mortality showed that **African Americans** had a 13% higher rate of cancer mortality than Whites (195.6 per 100,000 African Americans; 173.7 per 100,000 Whites) (MSTAHRs 2024, accessed 1/9/2025).
- Cancer incidence and mortality in Mississippi also **differ by geography**. The mortality rate (199.9 per 100,000) of all types of cancers in the Delta Regional Coalition was 17.1% higher than that of the Central Coalition Region. (Mortality: 170.6 per 100,000).
- Cancer mortality in Mississippi also **differs between populations**. The Delta has been designated a medically underserved area by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA, 2024). **African Americans living in the rural/Delta region of Mississippi are at higher risk for cancer death**. During 2017-2021, cancer mortality in the Delta area (201.3 per 100,000) of the state among African Americans was 13% higher than in non-Delta areas (177.2 per 100,000).

Know the Risk Factors

- In 2023, **71.3% of adults** 18 years or older reported being **overweight** (31.2%) (95% CI: 31.6-35.5) or **obese** (40.1%) (95% CI: 37.1-42.1) (BRFSS 2023).
- Approximately one in three cancer deaths in the U.S. are associated with obesity. Mississippi ranked **2nd in the nation with obesity prevalence** of 40.1% (95% CI: 37.1-42.1) (BRFSS 2023).
- **Black non-Hispanic individuals** have the **highest rate of obesity** of any racial/ethnic group in the state: 47.1% (95% CI: 43.4-50.4) (BRFSS 2023).
- Mississippi adults report **consuming fewer vegetables and fruits** daily. About one in four adults (23.2%) reported consuming vegetables less than once a day and about half of adults (46.8%) reported consuming fruit less than once a day (BRFSS 2021), making Mississippi a state with some of the lowest consumption of vegetables and fruits in the country (BRFSS 2021).
- Daily fruit and vegetable consumption **varies by race/ethnicity**. Percentage of Black Mississippians who did not consume at least one fruit (82.1%) and at least one vegetable (78.7%) per day were **higher** than for white Mississippians (73.7% and 58.1%, respectively). (BRFSS 2021)
- As of 2023, the state's **smoking prevalence was 29% higher** than the national average (15.6% vs. 12.1%).
- About one-third of Mississippi adults (33.3%) reported that they **were not involved in any physical activity** during the past month. Slightly more White Mississippians (67%) reported engaging in physical activity compared to Black (63%) Mississippians (BRFSS 2023).

Sources: MS Cancer Registry, American Cancer Society, Mississippi Vital Records (MSTAHRs), State Cancer Profiles, BRFSS (Behavior Risk Factor Survey System) 2021, 2022, 2023.

MP3C Regional Coalitions

Delta:

Attala, Bolivar, Carroll, Coahoma,
De Soto, Grenada, Holmes,
Humphreys, Leflore, Montgomery,
Panola, Quitman, Sunflower,
Tate, Tallahatchie, Tunica,
Yalobusha, Washington

Northeast:

Alcorn, Benton, Calhoun,
Chickasaw, Choctaw,
Clay, Itawamba, Lafayette,
Lee, Lowndes, Marshall,
Monroe, Noxubee,
Oktibbeha, Pontotoc,
Prentiss, Tippah,
Tishomingo, Union,
Webster, Winston

Central:

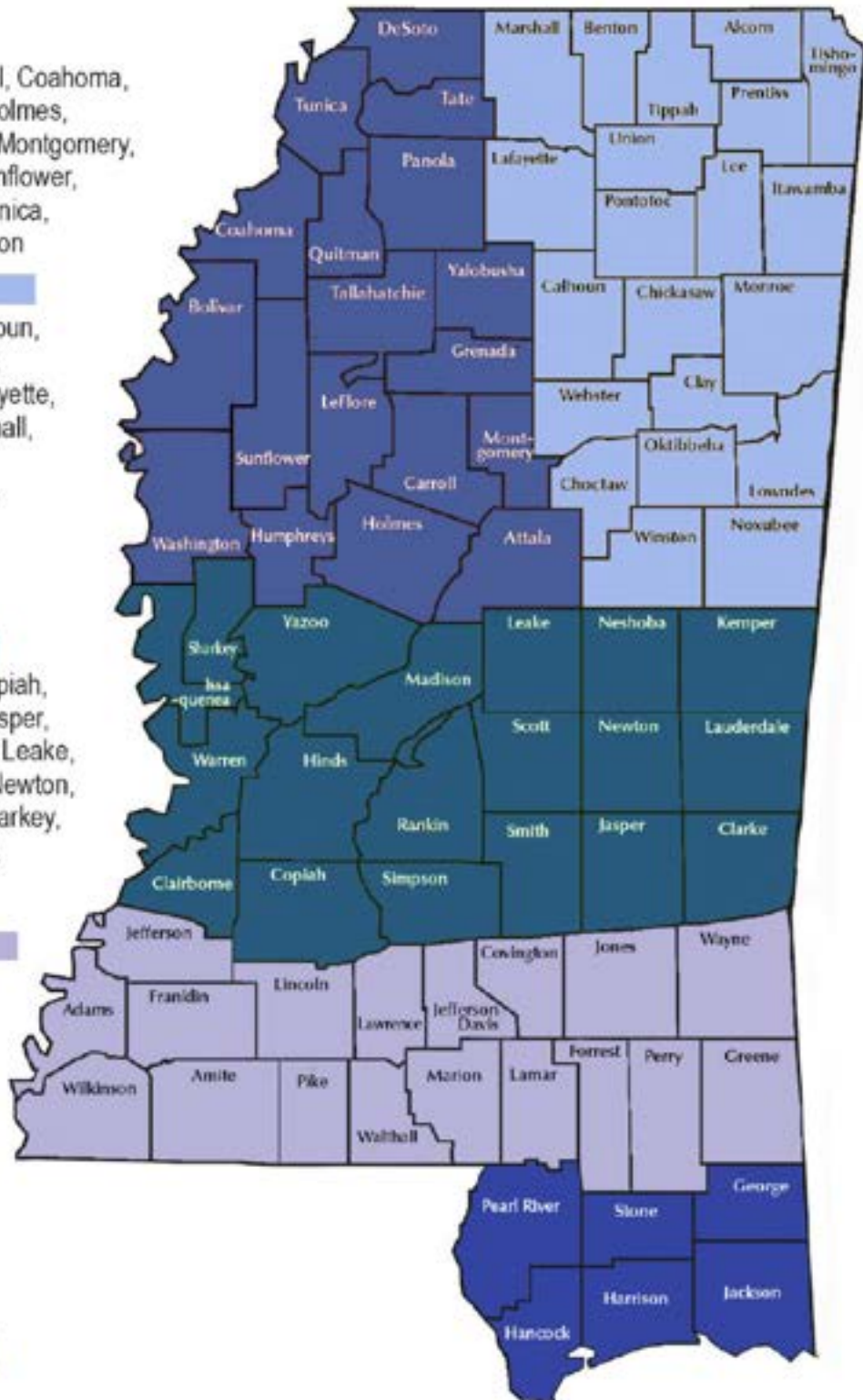
Claiborne, Clarke, Copiah,
Hinds, Issaquena, Jasper,
Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake,
Madison, Neshoba, Newton,
Rankin, Simpson, Sharkey,
Scott, Smith, Warren,
Yazoo

Southern:

Adams, Amite,
Covington, Forrest,
Franklin, Greene,
Jefferson,
Jefferson Davis,
Jones, Lamar,
Lawrence, Lincoln,
Marion, Perry,
Pike, Walthall,
Wilkinson, Wayne

Coastal:

George, Hancock,
Harrison, Jackson,
Pearl River, Stone



Cancer in Mississippi: Know the Facts & Take Action!

Top 4 Cancer Types in Mississippi

- ✓ Prostate
- ✓ Breast
- ✓ Lung & Bronchus
- ✓ Colorectal

Cancer is the **2nd leading cause of death** in Mississippi!

Over 32,800 lives were lost between 2017-2021

Lung & Bronchus Cancer caused the most deaths (8,979) followed by:

- Colorectal (3,157 deaths)
- Breast (2,319 deaths)
- Prostate (1,812 deaths)

What's Ahead?

The American Cancer Society predicts:

17,820 new cancer cases in MS this year
6,740 cancer-related deaths expected

Mississippi vs. USA: The Numbers

Cancer Death Rate: MS = 179.8 per 100,000
(23% higher than the U.S. average: 146 per 100,000).

Cancer Rates in Men: MS = 540.3 per 100,000
(11% higher than the national rate of 488.3 per 100,000).

Men vs. Women: Men in MS had 50% higher cancer mortality than women.

Cancer in Mississippi: Know the Facts & Take Action!

Disparities in Cancer Mortality

Race Disparities: African Americans in Mississippi had a 13% higher cancer mortality rate than Whites in 2022.

- African Americans: 195.6 per 100,000
- Whites: 173.7 per 100,000
- (MSTAHS 2024, accessed 1/9/2025)

Geographic Disparities: Cancer mortality differs by region.

Delta Regional Coalition: 199.9 per 100,000
(17.1% higher than Central Region)

Central Coalition Region: 170.6 per 100,000

Cancer mortality in Mississippi also differs between populations.

The Delta is an unfortunate hotspot for unfavorable health outcomes and has been designated a medically underserved area by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA, 2024).

The African American population living in rural/Delta regions of Mississippi is at higher risk for cancer death.

2017-2021 Cancer Mortality in Delta Region: 201.3 per 100,000

Non-Delta Areas: 177.2 per 100,000

Delta cancer mortality is **13% higher** than in non-Delta areas.

Cancer in Mississippi: Know the Facts & Take Action!

Obesity & Cancer: About 1 in 3 cancer deaths in the U.S. are linked to obesity. Mississippi ranks 2nd nationally in obesity prevalence: 40.1% (95% CI: 37.1-42.1) (BRFSS 2023).

Weight Statistics: In 2023, 71.3% of Mississippi adults were either overweight (31.2%) or obese (40.1%) (BRFSS 2023).

Smoking: As of 2023, Mississippi's smoking rate was 29% higher than the national average (15.6% vs. 12.1%).

Poor Nutrition: About 1 in 4 adults (23.2%) eat vegetables less than once a day, and 46.8% eat fruit less than once a day, making us one of the lowest-ranking states for fruit and vegetable intake (BRFSS 2021).

Obesity & Race: Black non-Hispanic Mississippians have the highest obesity rate of any racial/ethnic group: 47.1% (95% CI: 43.4-50.4) (BRFSS 2023).

Physical Inactivity: About 33.3% of adults in Mississippi reported no physical activity in the past month. More White Mississippians (67%) engage in physical activity compared to Black Mississippians (63%) (BRFSS 2023).

Racial Disparities in Diet: More Black Mississippians did not eat at least one fruit (82.1%) or one vegetable (78.7%) per day than White Mississippians (73.7% and 58.1%) (BRFSS 2021).

Cancer in Mississippi: Know the Facts & Take Action!

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

- ✓ Get screened early – Early detection saves lives!
- ✓ Live a healthy lifestyle – Eat well, stay active, & avoid tobacco.
- ✓ Spread awareness – Share this information & encourage others!

Need more info?
Together, we can fight cancer in Mississippi!

msdh.ms.gov/cancer



Sources: MS Cancer Registry, American Cancer Society, MSTAHRs, State Cancer Profiles, BRFSS 2021, 2022, 2023.