

Skin Cancer in Arizona

Patient Care • Research



Skin Cancer Institute

Education • Outreach

Skin Cancer Research at the Arizona Cancer Center

- The AZCC has focused on skin cancer as a major research strand for more than two decades
 - recipient of a large National Cancer Institute (NCI) program project grant for the chemoprevention of skin cancer.
- Historical focus also in skin cancer prevention education in schools
- Maintained only population-based skin cancer registry in United States from 1985-1998

Skin Cancer as a Problem

- Three major types of skin cancer
 - Malignant melanoma
 - Non-melanoma skin cancers
 - SCC and BCC
- High incidence of all types in US and Arizona
 - Increasing incidence
 - Some indication that patterns are changing and better data needed
- Increasing health burden
- However, skin cancer is Treatable and preventable
 - Non-melanoma skin cancers typically non-fatal
 - Melanoma highly treatable if detected early

What is the incidence of skin cancer in Arizona?

- Only melanoma is reportable to the Arizona Cancer Registry. Non-melanoma cancers are not routinely tracked by any US cancer registry.
- Furthermore, studies indicate that melanoma itself is underreported, particularly small, stage 0 tumors.
- More data is needed to determine if incidence is changing

Southeastern Arizona Skin Cancer Registry

- Incidence of all types of skin cancers last determined in 1996 in Arizona by the Southeastern Arizona Cancer Registry.
 - Records from dermatologists and pathology laboratories abstracted
 - Three counties in Arizona included in registry
 - Pima, Cochise, Santa Cruz.
 - Population size approximately one million residents
 - Incidence tracked between 1985 and 1996

Skin cancer incidence comparison: Arizona, US total, Australia (per 100,000) for 1996

	SCC	BCC	Melanoma
SE Arizona, 1996¹			
Women	121.1	526.1	21.3
Men	295.3	1007.5	35.8
United States^{4,5}			
Women	26	212	12.4
Men	81	407	18.2
North Queensland, Australia⁸			
Women	755	1195	41.7
Men	1332	2058	49.1

¹Southeastern Arizona, 1996; ⁴Miller and Weinstock, 1994;
⁵ U.S. SEER data for whites, 1992-1996 ; ⁸ Buettner, 1998

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Skin cancer incidence comparison: Arizona, US total, Australia (per 100,000) for 1996

295/81=3.6
times higher
incidence in
SE Arizona
than US
general
incidence
for SCC

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No new data available

In 2004, ↑ melanoma incidence for men (27.2), although no change for women (17.6)

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References

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- Buettner PG and Raasch BA. Incidence rates of skin cancer in Townsville, Australia. *Int J Cancer* 78: 587-593, 1998