



# Thyroid Cancer

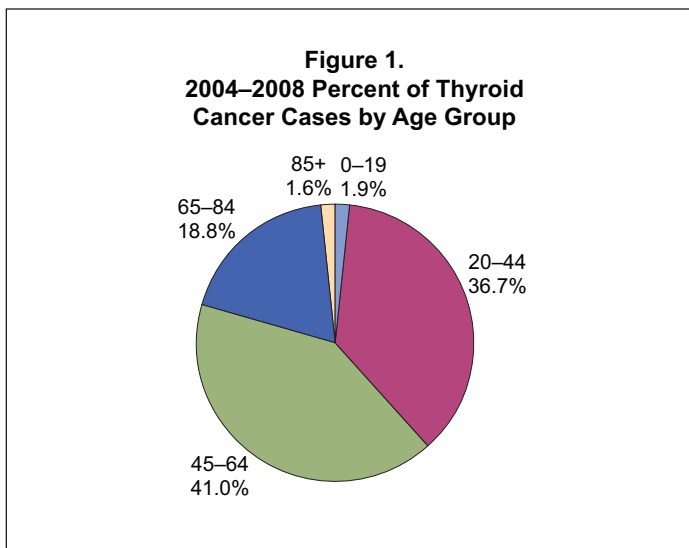
A Fact Sheet from the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry, State Center for Health Statistics

June 2011

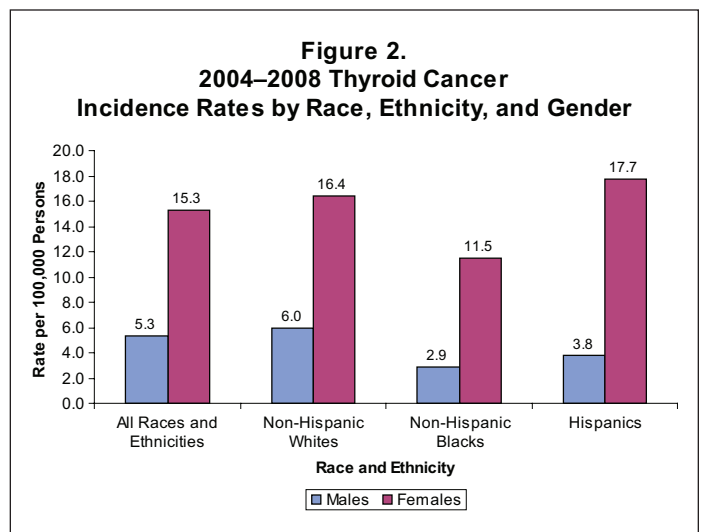
Cancer of the thyroid was the 13th most frequently occurring and the 23rd leading cause of cancer death in North Carolina from 2004 to 2008. It is anticipated that 1,041 people (255 males and 786 females) in North Carolina will be diagnosed with and 45 people (19 males and 26 females) will die of cancer of the thyroid in 2011.

## Incidence

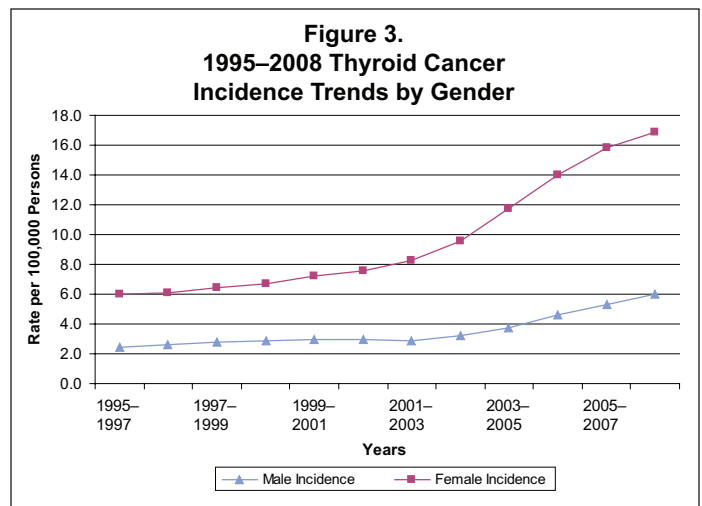
The percentage of cases of thyroid cancer from 2004 to 2008 is displayed by age group in Figure 1. More than 35 percent of thyroid cancer cases were diagnosed in people ages 20 to 44.



Between 2004 and 2008, the age-adjusted incidence rate for thyroid cancer in North Carolina was 10.4 per 100,000 persons per year (Figure 2). Women were much more likely to be diagnosed with thyroid cancer than men.

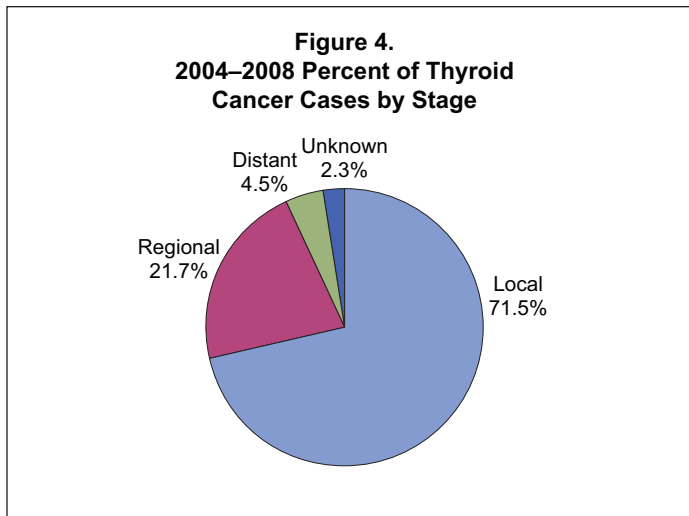


From 1995 to 2008, thyroid cancer incidence rates have increased for men and women (Figure 3).

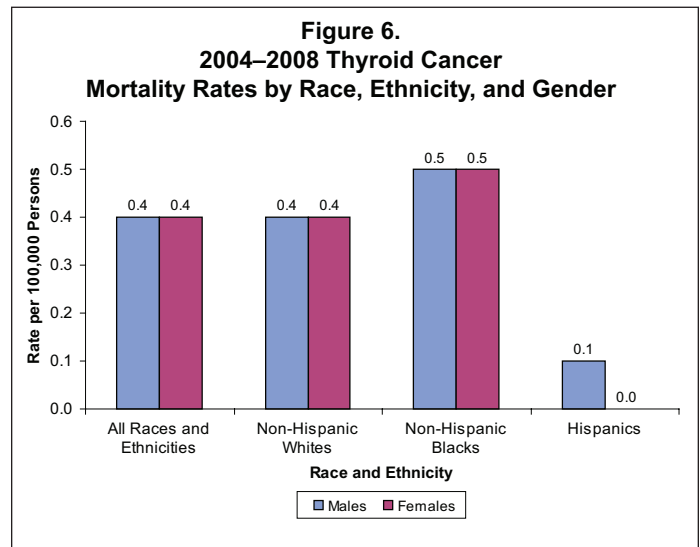


## Stage at Diagnosis\*

Figure 4 shows the stage distribution of thyroid cancer cases diagnosed between 2004 and 2008. More than 70 percent of thyroid cancer cases were diagnosed at the localized stage.

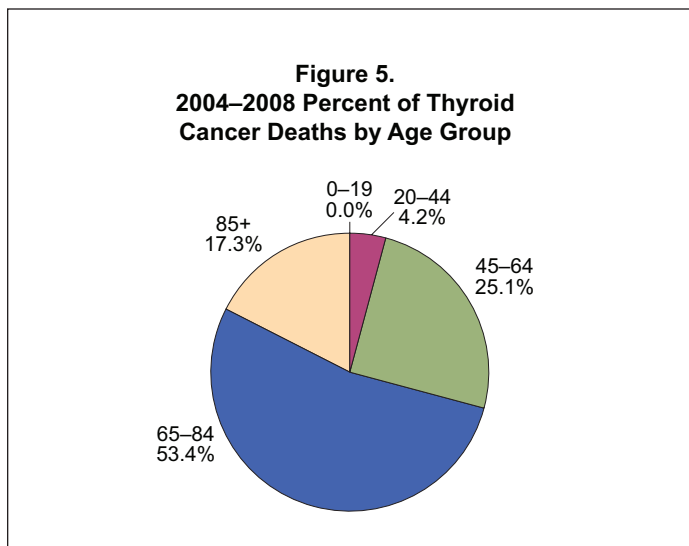


The age-adjusted mortality rate of thyroid cancer from 2004 to 2008 was 0.4 per 100,000 persons per year (Figure 6). Men and women were equally likely to die of thyroid cancer.



## Mortality

More than half the deaths occurred in people ages 65-84. Figure 5 shows the percentage of deaths that occurred between 2004 and 2008 displayed by age group.



## Data Sources and Methods

Data on North Carolina cases were obtained from the North Carolina Central Cancer Registry (CCR). Hospitals are the primary source of data. The CCR supplements hospital data with reports from physicians who diagnose cases in a non-hospital setting. The CCR also collects data from pathology laboratories and freestanding treatment centers. Data on cancer deaths were obtained from Statistical Services in the State Center for Health Statistics. Population data from the National Center for Health Statistics were used in the denominators of the rates, which are expressed per 100,000 persons. Rates were age-adjusted using the 2000 United States Census data. To examine trends, three-year overlapping rates were used to improve stability over time. Stage at diagnosis was defined according to Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results Summary Stage guidelines as *in situ*, localized, regional, distant, and unknown/NA. For further information about the NC CCR, please visit [www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/CCR](http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/CCR).

\* According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), “many cancer registries, such as NCI’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (SEER), use summary staging. This system is used for all types of cancer. It groups cancer cases into five main categories: **In situ**—Abnormal cells are present only in the layer of cells in which they developed. **Localized**—Cancer is limited to the organ in which it began, without evidence of spread. **Regional**—Cancer has spread beyond the primary site to nearby lymph nodes or organs and tissues. **Distant**—Cancer has spread from the primary site to distant organs or distant lymph nodes. **Unknown**—There is not enough information to determine the stage.” Additional information on staging can be found at [www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/detection/staging](http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/detection/staging).