



## BY THE NUMBERS

### Melanoma Cancer in California

**7,225**

The number of people expected to be diagnosed with melanoma cancer in California in 2013.

**920**

The number of deaths from melanoma expected in California in 2013.

**#5 ♂ and #7 ♀**

Melanoma was the fifth most common type of cancer incidence (new diagnoses) among males and the seventh most common type of cancer incidence among females in California in 2010. Melanoma was not among the top ten most common types of cancer mortality (deaths) among males or females.

## CALIFORNIA CANCER REGISTRY FACT SHEET

# MELANOMA SKIN CANCER

Melanoma is a cancer that starts in a certain type of skin cell called melanocytes (pigment cells).

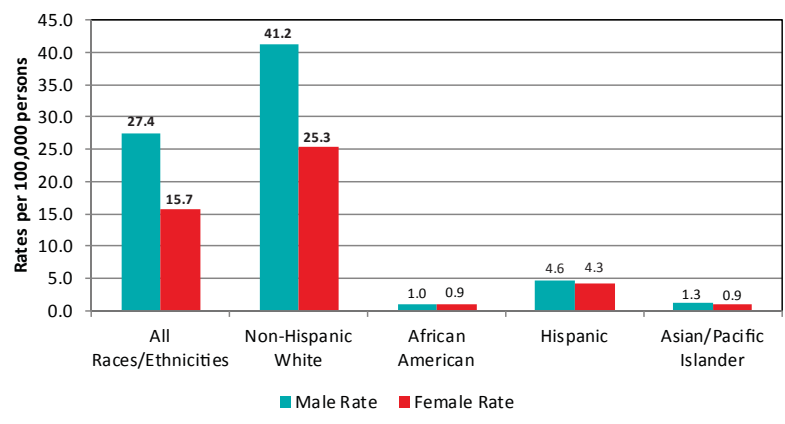
Melanoma can occur on any skin surface. In men, it's often found on the skin on the head, on the neck, or between the shoulders and the hips. In women, it's often found on the skin on the lower legs or between the shoulders and the hips.

### Melanoma Incidence and Mortality Rates, California, 2006-2010

Between 2006 and 2010, the melanoma incidence rate among males in California was 27.4 new cases per 100,000 males per year and the mortality rate was 3.9 deaths per 100,000 males per year. For females, these rates were lower, with an incidence rate of 15.7 new cases per 100,000 females and a mortality rate of 1.6 deaths per 100,000 females per year.

Non-Hispanic white males and females had the highest incidence rates (41.2 and 25.3 new cases per 100,000 persons, respectively) and the highest mortality rates (5.8 and 2.4 deaths per 100,000 persons, respectively) of melanoma in the state.

**Melanoma Incidence Rates in California, 2006-2010**



Source: California Cancer Registry, California Department of Public Health.  
 Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, California Cancer Registry.  
 Note: Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Population.

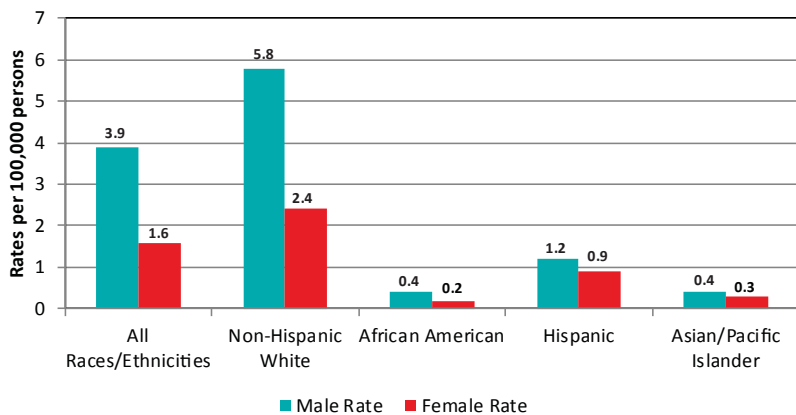


# MELANOMA SKIN CANCER

## Melanoma Cancer in California

Five-Year  
Relative Survival Rates  
**CALIFORNIA, 2001-2010**

**Melanoma Mortality Rates in California, 2006-2010**

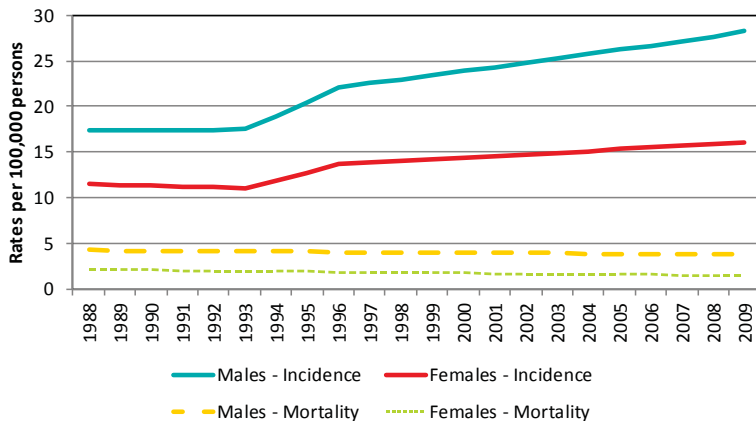


Source: California Cancer Registry, California Department of Public Health.  
Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, California Cancer Registry.  
Note: Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Population.

### California Incidence and Mortality Trends, 1988-2009

Melanoma incidence rates among males in California remained relatively stable between 1988 and 1993, increased between 1993 and 1996 and then began increasing at a statistically significant rate between 1996 and 2009. The incidence rate trend among females in California has followed a similar pattern. Melanoma mortality rates among males and females in California have been decreasing at a statistically significant rate since 1988.

**Trends in Melanoma Incidence and Mortality in California, 1988-2009**



Source: California Cancer Registry, California Department of Public Health.  
Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, California Cancer Registry.  
Note: Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Population.

*If Diagnosed  
When the  
Tumor is:*

**Localized**

(The tumor has broken through the basement membrane, but is still confined to the organ in which it is growing.)

**Regional**

(The tumor has spread to the lymph nodes or adjacent tissues.)

**Distant**

(The tumor has spread to other parts of the body (metastasized).)

**All Stages**

Overall Five-Year  
Relative Survival Rate  
for Melanoma in  
California

*Five-Year  
Survival  
Rate is:*

**99%**

**63%**

**16%**

**92%**

Note: Follow-up is through December 2010. Cancers that were unstaged at time of diagnosis are excluded.

### Risk Factors

Certain factors have been shown to be associated with an increased risk of certain types of cancer. But, the majority of known cancer risk factors are related to individual characteristics (such as age, race/ethnicity or family history/genetic susceptibility) and behaviors (such as smoking, diet, physical inactivity, unsafe sex, and sun exposure). For more information about melanoma-specific risk factors, please see the resources listed below.

### For more information

on risk factors, screening, symptoms, treatment:

- ◆ **National Cancer Institute (NCI)**  
"What You Need to Know About . . ." series:  
<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk>

Cancer Information Service phone number:  
1-800-4-CANCER

- ◆ **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):**  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

- ◆ **American Cancer Society (ACS):**  
[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org), or 1-800-227-2345