

# ARIZONA MELANOMA REPORTING

## ARIZONA

No. 2018-1  
July 18, 2018

### Purpose of the Arizona Melanoma Task Force

*To identify barriers and develop strategies to improve melanoma reporting by physicians in Arizona.*

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE TASK FORCE CHAIR:

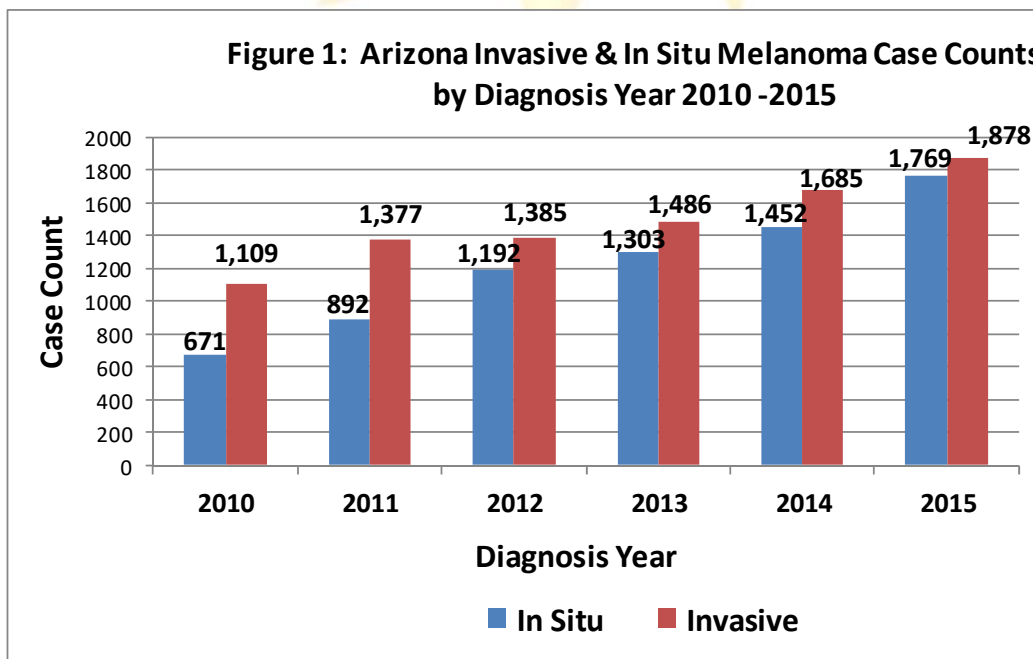
Ample interesting data from 2015 Arizona Cancer Registry is included in this newsletter which was generated after acceptance of data for 2015 closed in December 2017. Here are just a few highlights from the newsletter.

1. The melanoma case count has more than doubled in 5 years (2010 to 2015) from 1780 cases to 3647 cases (see Figure 1).
2. The age adjusted rate for men continues to increase. Comparing the Arizona rate in 2015 for men at 32.3/100,000 versus half that rate in Arizona women at 15.7/100,000 (see Figure 3).
3. For the first time since 2003, the rate of invasive melanoma per 100,000 in Arizona exceeds the US rate in 2014 and continues in 2015 (see Figure 4).

It is exciting for me to see data which more accurately reflects the true clinical experience of caring for patients with melanoma in Arizona. Accurate data can only be obtained with continued reporting by physicians and other healthcare providers (see Figure 6). At the end of the report is a table of the number of physician reports submitted in 2017. Physicians wanting to verify the number of cases reported or have questions about reporting can be directed to [georgia.yee@azdhs.gov](mailto:georgia.yee@azdhs.gov). The Arizona Melanoma Task Force will be in touch with you throughout the year. Reporting forms can be found at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/cancer/MelanomaForm.pdf>.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, NANCY SILVIS, MD TUCSON, AZ

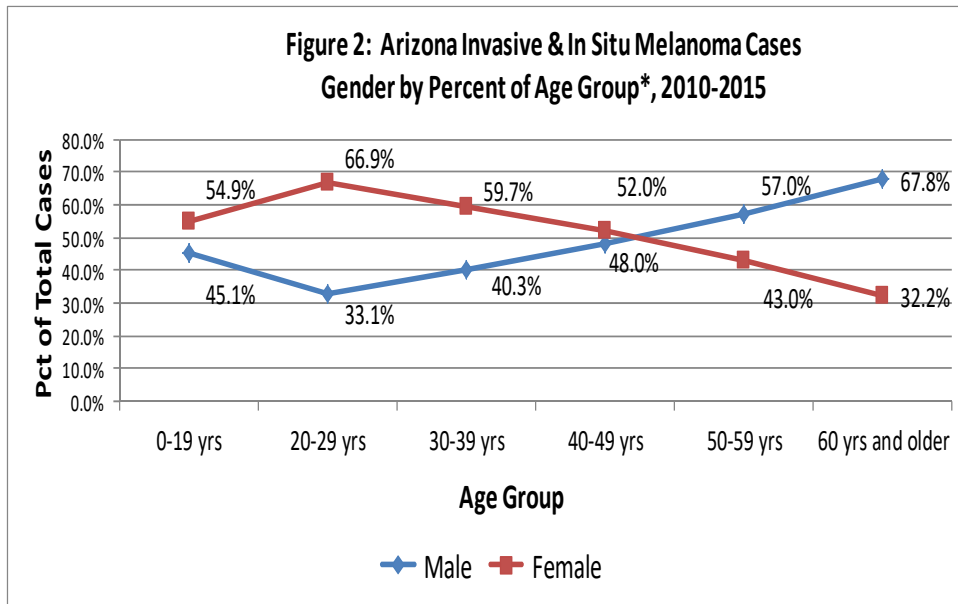
**MELANOMA CASE COUNTS** - Figure 1: In 2011 the Melanoma Task Force requested community dermatologists start reporting all of their melanoma cases. That year 2,269 cases of in situ and invasive melanoma cases. In 2015, five years later, 3,647 (in situ and invasive) total cases were reported. An increase of 61% from 2011 to 2015. This rise demonstrates the effect of improved physician reporting.



# TRENDS IN REPORTING

**BETWEEN THE AGES OF 20 AND 50 YEARS MORE WOMEN ARE DIAGNOSED WITH MELANOMA COMPARED TO MEN**

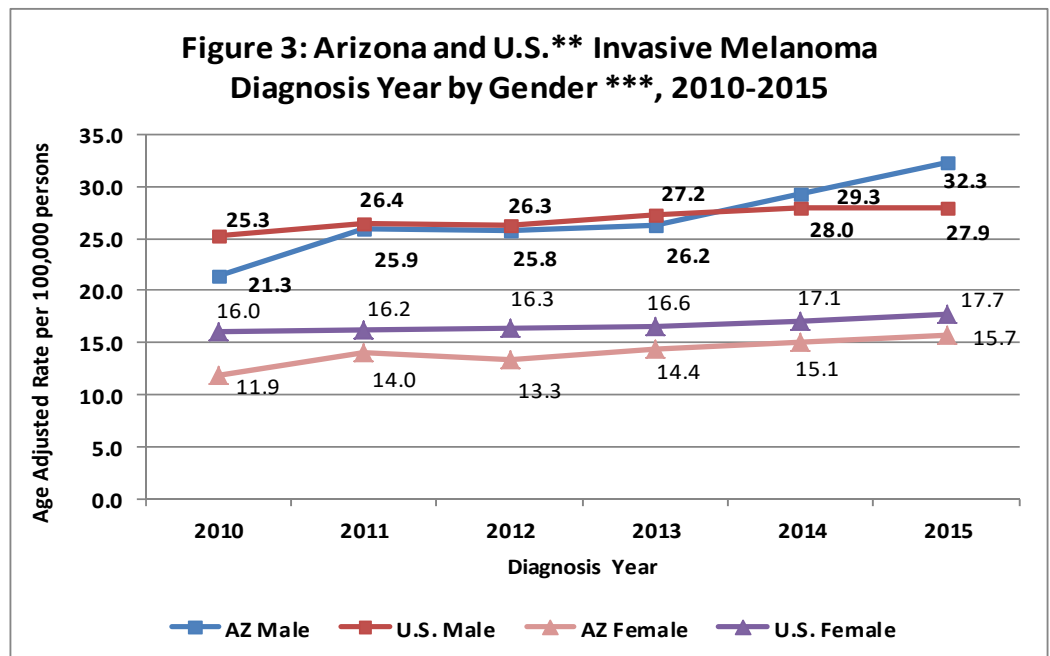
**GENDER / AGE GROUP** - Figure 2: Age at diagnosis of melanoma differs between men and women. When all age groups are combined most cases of melanoma occur in men. However, between the ages of 20 and 50 years, the percentage of melanoma cases are diagnosed higher in women. After the age of 50 years most cases of melanoma are diagnosed in men. Almost 1 in 5 melanoma cases among women occur between the ages of 20 and 50 years. In men only 1 in 10 cases occur in the 20 to 50 year age groups. Among women the median age at diagnosis is 64 years, while among men the median age is 69 years.



## DIAGNOSIS YEARS BY GENDER

### AGE ADJUSTED RATE / GENDER -

Figure 3: Age adjusted rates for males in Arizona and the U.S. are consistently higher when compared to females. For Arizona males there is 23.3% increase between 2013 and 2015.

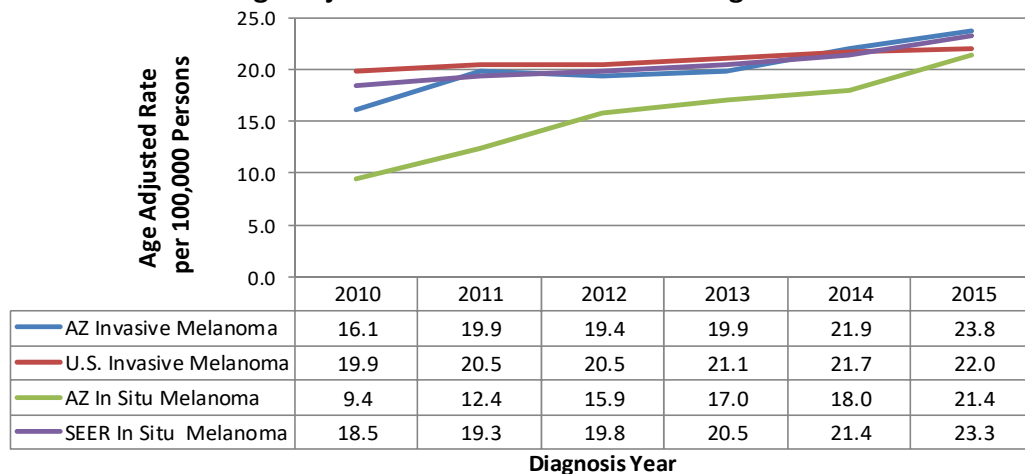


\*Excluded in Figure 2 are 5 cases as other or unknown gender and 5 cases with unknown age.  
 \*\* SEER\*Stat Database: NPCR and SEER Incidence - U.S. Cancer Statistics Public Use Database, Nov 2017 submission (2001-2015). Created on 4/27/2018.  
 \*\*\*Excluded in Figure 3 are 5 cases as other or unknown gender.

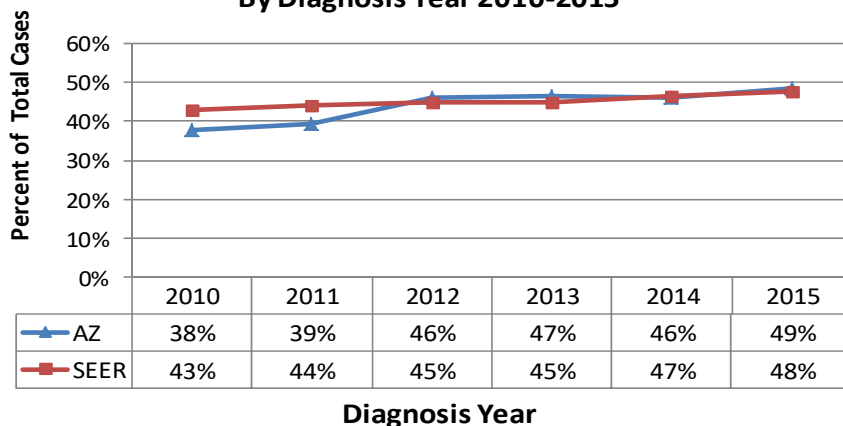
# TRENDS IN REPORTING

**AGE ADJUSTED MELANOMA RATES** - Figure 4: Invasive melanoma age adjusted rates in Arizona have risen 47.8 percent from the year 2010 to year 2015 (from 16.1 to 23.8 cases per 100,000 persons). In this same time period melanoma rates in the United States increased 10.6 percent. The sharp increase in Arizona rates likely reflects the more complete reporting by dermatologists. Comparing the in situ melanoma age adjusted rates, Arizona rates have risen 1.3 fold from the year 2010 to year 2015 (from 9.4 to 21.4 cases per 100,000 persons). Comparing the 2015 diagnosis year between Arizona and SEER for in situ melanoma (21.4 to 23.3), the Arizona rate was 8.9% lower than the SEER rate.

**Figure 4: Arizona and U.S.\* Invasive & Arizona and SEER\*\* In Situ Age Adjusted Melanoma Rates For Diagnosis Years 2010-2015**



**Figure 5: Comparison of Arizona and SEER\*\* Registry Percent of Total Melanoma In Situ Cases By Diagnosis Year 2010-2015**



## IN SITU COMPARISON -

Figure 5: The proportion of total melanoma in situ cases for Arizona has risen 28.9 percent (from 38% in 2010 to 49% in 2015). In the SEER Registry the increase from 2010 to 2015 was 11.6 percent. The Arizona increase can be attributed to the rising number of in situ cases reported by community dermatologists. In 2015 the Arizona proportion of in situ has surpassed the SEER Registry in situ proportion.

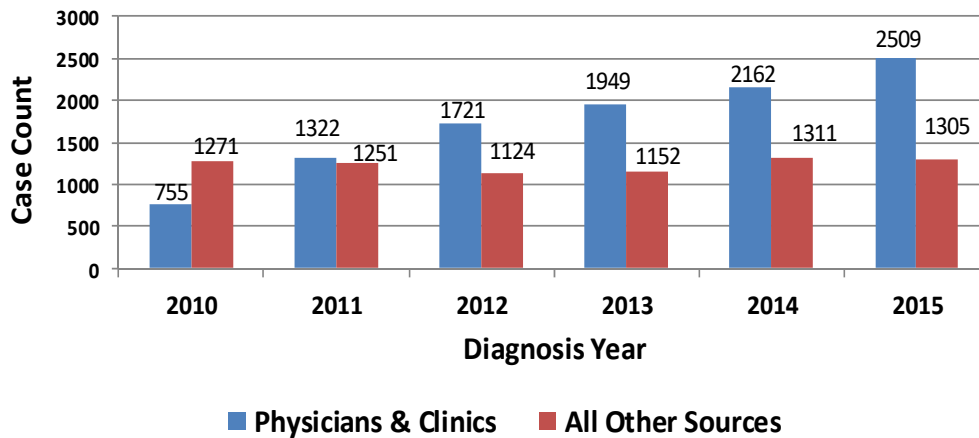
\* SEER\*Stat Database: NPCR and SEER Incidence - U.S. Cancer Statistics Public Use Database, Nov 2017 submission (2001-2015). Created on 4/27/2018.

\*\* Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program (www.seer.cancer.gov) SEER\*Stat Database: Incidence - SEER 9 Regs Research Data, Nov 2017 Sub (1973-2015) <Katrina/Rita Population Adjustment> - Linked To County Attributes - Total U.S., 1969-2016 Counties, National Cancer Institute, DCCPS, Surveillance Research Program, released April 2018, based on the November 2017 submission.

# TRENDS IN REPORTING

## AN UPDATE: COMPARING PHYSICIAN CASE REPORTS TO OTHER SOURCES

**Figure 6: A Comparison of the Reporting Source - Physician Case Reports\* and All Other Sources of Case Reports\*\* Arizona Invasive and In Situ Melanoma Diagnosis Years 2010-2015**



## REPORTING SOURCES

Figure 6: In the 2011 diagnosis year, there is a transition to more melanoma cases reported by physicians than from other sources. In 2015, there were 92.3% more case reports received from physicians compared to all other sources. This again demonstrates the important role physicians play in reporting melanoma to the Arizona Cancer Registry.

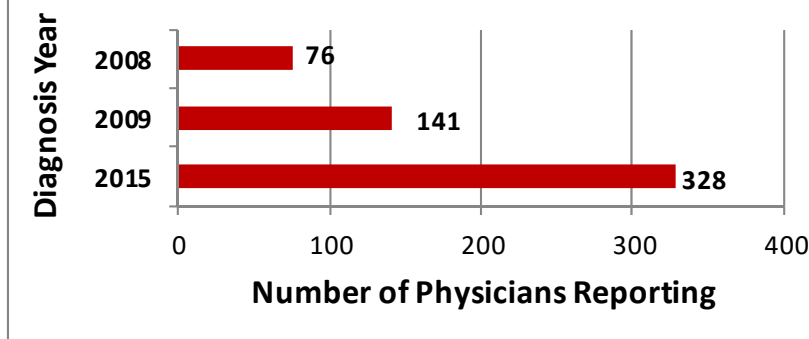
\*Physician Case Reports = A case reported by a physician. More than one case report may be received for each new melanoma case.

\*\* All other sources of case reports = Case reports received from hospitals, pathology laboratories, other state registries, etc. More than one case report may be received for each new melanoma case.

Note: Physicians also include Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants that also reported case reports.

## THE NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS REPORTING MELANOMA CASES CONTINUES TO INCREASE

**Figure 7: Number of Physicians Reporting by Diagnosis Year**



## THE NUMBER OF PHYSICIANS REPORTING BY DIAGNOSIS YEAR

Figure 7: The number of physicians reporting continues to increase. The 2008 diagnosis year represents the year prior to the physician pilot project performed in 2009. In 2009, the Melanoma Task Force piloted a project requesting specific dermatologists to review their 2009 melanoma cases and report them to the Arizona Cancer Registry. After 2009 the Task Force reached out to all dermatologists. Comparing 2009 to 2015, we see a 1.3 fold increase in the number of physicians that have reported.

Note: Physicians include Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants who reported cases.

# TRENDS IN REPORTING

## NUMBER OF MELANOMA REPORTS SUBMITTED BY PHYSICIAN OFFICES—

The following table shows the number of melanoma cases diagnosed in 2017 and reported by physician offices. The table is grouped by Phoenix Area, Tucson Area, and the rest of the state. The table does not include cases reported from a hospital cancer registry. Physicians interested in verifying if the registry has received reports from their office may contact Georgia Yee for more information at [Georgia.Yee@azdhs.gov](mailto:Georgia.Yee@azdhs.gov).

Arizona Population Areas - Melanoma Physician Reports Submitted	
Phoenix Area	2,600
Tucson Area	958
Rest of the State	615
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>4,173</b>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provide support to the Arizona Cancer Registry under cooperative agreement NU58DP006341 (National Program of Cancer Registries Component). The contents of this report are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Note: The Arizona Cancer Registry database is dynamic, meaning that numbers are updated frequently for any diagnosis year. Previous reports may reflect different numbers due to these updates.

Forms for melanoma reporting can be found at <http://www.azdhs.gov/cancer/MelanomaForm.pdf>. Any questions about reporting can be directed to [Georgia.yee@azdhs.gov](mailto:Georgia.yee@azdhs.gov) at the state's Arizona Cancer Registry.