

Melanoma Reporting in Arizona

Arizona Melanoma Task Force

The Arizona Melanoma Task Force aims to enhance melanoma reporting to the Arizona Cancer Registry and promote use of registry data and control of skin cancer.

Total Counts for Melanoma in 2022

3,410

Invasive melanoma cases reported

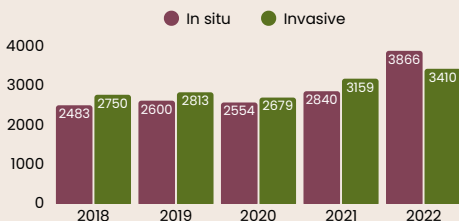
3,866

In situ melanoma cases reported

Interested in joining the Melanoma Task Force?

The Melanoma Task Force is seeking new physician members to assist in the work of this task force and to ensure physician practices are truly reflected in the statistics for Arizona. The goal of the task force is to improve the melanoma reporting process in Arizona. The task force commitment is bimonthly virtual meetings and to assist with continued engagement of physician reporting. Please refer to the Arizona Melanoma Task Force Information Sheet for additional information. Please contact Georgia Yee if interested, georgia.yee@azdhs.gov.

IN SITU & INVASIVE MELANOMA CASE COUNTS BY DIAGNOSIS YEAR, 2018-2022



Melanoma is the

4th

most common cancer diagnosis in AZ.

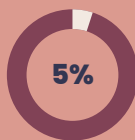
Increasing melanoma counts and rates demonstrate the effect of improved physician reporting.

STAGE AT DIAGNOSIS: 2018-2022

Melanoma cases diagnosed in the earliest stages have a 5-year relative survival of 98.9%. *



94% of melanoma cases are diagnosed "early stage" (i.e. in situ, localized).



5% of melanoma cases are diagnosed "late stage" (i.e. regional and distant).



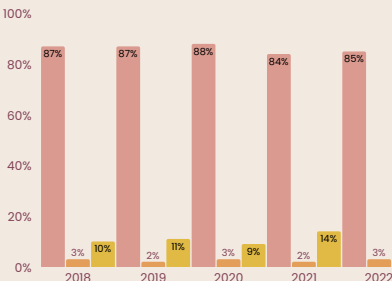
2% of melanoma cases had unknown stage at diagnosis information.

Note: The percent of each stage combined may not equal 100 due to rounding.

PERCENT OF INVASIVE MELANOMAS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

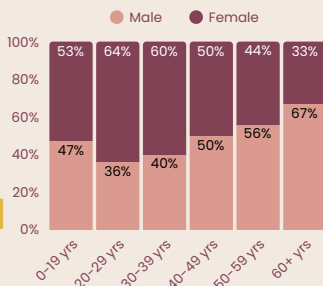
Most melanoma cases diagnosed in Arizona are among White non-Hispanic residents.

White Non-Hispanic Other Races Unknown



PERCENT OF INVASIVE MELANOMAS BY AGE & SEX

- Women: Most diagnoses occur under age 40
- Ages 40-49: Rates are more similar between men and women
- Men: Most diagnoses occur at age 50 and older



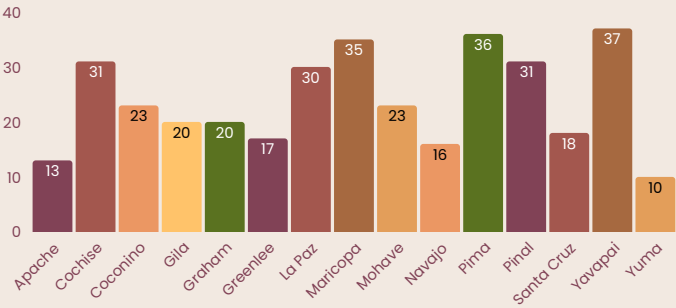
IMPORTANCE OF DOCUMENTING RACE

The cancer registry is seeing an increase in the number of melanoma cases being reported with **unknown race**. Please make additional efforts to report accurate and complete race information. This information is used to identify health disparities in melanoma diagnosis and survivorship.

Age-Adjusted Rate= number of cases diagnosed per 100,000 people.

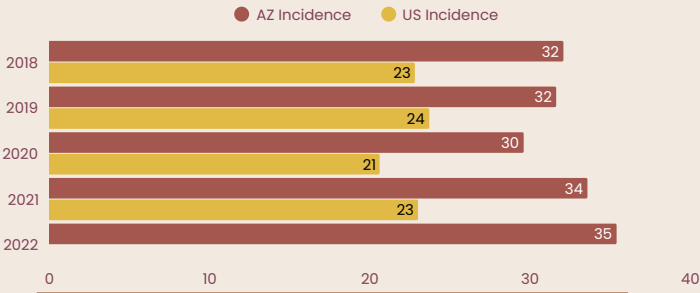
INVASIVE MELANOMA INCIDENCE AGE-ADJUSTED RATES BY COUNTY, 2018-2022

- Highest rates: Yavapai (37), Pima (36), and Maricopa (35) county.
- Lowest rates: Yuma (10), Apache (13), and Navajo (16) county.



AZ VS. US* INVASIVE MELANOMA AGE-ADJUSTED INCIDENCE RATES BY DIAGNOSIS YEAR, 2018-2022

Arizona has consistently higher melanoma incidence rates compared to the United States. The Arizona and national melanoma mortality rates are stable at 2 deaths per 100,000 over the past five years (2018-2022).



MELANOMA REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR 2024 BY PHYSICIAN OFFICES

The Arizona Cancer Registry receives melanoma case reports from physician offices across the State. These numbers represent cases reported in 2024 and do not include cases reported by hospital facility for a physician.

481

Physicians
Reported 2024
Melanoma Cases

Total number of 2024 melanoma cases reported by physicians:

- **Phoenix Area** 4,845
- **Tucson Area** 1,836
- **Rest of the State** 1,052

Breakdown of 2024 Melanoma Cases Reported by Credential:

- **Nurse Practitioners:** 810 cases
- **Physician Assistants:** 2,293 cases
- **Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DO):** 1,362 cases
- **Doctors of Medicine (MD):** 3,268 cases

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESOURCES

RARE REGISTRY: WHERE YOU LEAD MELANOMA RESEARCH

RARE is a registry for patients with acral, mucosal, or cutaneous (skin) melanoma. RARE provides a free, interactive, web and mobile friendly tool to share info and experiences, disease history, advance research and awareness, and get potential matches to clinical trials.

Visit the [RARE Registry](#) webpage to learn more.

ARIZONA CANCER PLAN: The Melanoma Task Force is leading an objective to decrease the percentage of late stage melanomas diagnoses in Arizona by 5% . Strategies:

1. Establish a baseline to measure late stage melanoma diagnoses in Arizona.
2. Update the Arizona Melanoma Profile and include additional demographic information to inform evidence-based interventions.
3. The Melanoma Task Force will collaborate with community partners to increase educational outreach on early detection of melanoma in at-risk populations.

Visit the [Arizona Cancer Plan](#) webpage to learn more.

DATA SOURCES AND NOTES

- * Data source for U.S. incidence data: U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz>, released in June 2024.
- Data source for Arizona incidence data: Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Cancer Registry, 2025. Retrieved April 18, 2025.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provide support to the Arizona Cancer Registry under Cooperative Agreement NU58DP007089 (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.
- The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted health services, leading to delays and reductions in cancer screenings and diagnoses. This may have contributed to the decline in new cancer cases for many sites in 2020. The numbers of new cases diagnosed in 2021 are still a little lower than expected for some cancer types but have returned to pre-pandemic counts for other cancer types.
- Note: To ensure accuracy and consistency the Arizona Cancer Registry produces age-adjusted rates using the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (SEER) population denominators based on the most current Census data.
- 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.

Updates for our Arizona Melanoma Reporting Physicians and Clinics-

1. CHANGES TO CASE REPORTING

R9-4-404 Requirements for Submitting Case Reports and Follow-up Reports and Allowing Review of Hospital Records

Effective June 2, 2025- Clinics and providers submitting 50 or more cancer case reports per year are now required to submit all reports electronically within 90 days of diagnosis or treatment initiation if the patient is not referred to a hospital for the first course of treatment. Those submitting fewer than 50 reports annually may continue using paper or electronic submissions, but must report within 30 days of diagnosis under the same conditions. We'll begin contacting affected providers and clinics in August to support this transition.

If you have any questions, please contact the Arizona Cancer Registry (cancerregistry@azdhs.gov)

Notice of final rule making can be found, [here](#).

2. WEB PLUS: ELECTRONIC REPORTING

The Arizona Cancer Registry (ACR) is using Web Plus for electronic melanoma reporting. Web Plus is a secure web-based portal created and maintained by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for cancer reporting to state registries from physician and clinic offices. If you are interested in transitioning please contact raeann.robinson@azdhs.gov or cancerregistry@azdhs.gov otherwise the ACR will be contacting you in the future.

3. COMPLETE CONTACT FORM

The cancer registry is working to update our contact information for dermatology clinics and physicians. Please have one person from your clinics/office complete this short Google form. Thank you.

Google form can be found, [here](#).

4. MELANOMA REPORT FORM

In order to compile accurate case counts by physician, it is important to complete the Reporting Physician name located on the top of the form. This helps us to maintain accurate counts for this newsletter as well as on the patient record.

The Melanoma Report Form can be found, [here](#).

Thank you for all the work you do, and continue to do, to improve cancer surveillance for Arizona.