

BRFSS Brief

Number 1302

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual statewide telephone survey of adults developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and administered by the New York State Department of Health. The BRFSS is designed to provide information on behaviors, risk factors, and utilization of preventive services related to the leading causes of chronic and infectious diseases, disability, injury, and death among the noninstitutionalized, civilian population aged 18 years and older.

Cancer Survivors

New York State Adults, 2009-2010

Introduction and Key Findings

An individual is considered a cancer survivor from the time of cancer diagnosis, through the balance of his or her life. The term cancer survivorship refers to the physical, social, and economic issues associated with cancer from diagnosis until the end of life. Cancer survivorship encompasses the ability to access health care and follow up treatment, late effects of treatment, second cancers and quality of life. Family members, friends, and caregivers are also considered part of the cancer survivorship experience.¹

The aging of the United States population and advances in the detection and treatment of cancer have contributed to a steady increase in the number of cancer survivors during the last three decades.² An estimated 13.7 million Americans with a history of cancer were alive as of January 2012.³ There are nearly one million cancer survivors currently living in New York State, which represents about 4.4% of the total state population.⁴ As advances in cancer detection and treatment continue, and the population ages, the number of cancer survivors is expected to increase, leading cancer survivorship to be a growing component of comprehensive cancer care.

KEY FINDINGS

Among respondents aged 18 years or older with a history of cancer (excluding nonmelanoma skin cancer), most received their first diagnosis between the ages of 45 and 64 years. Considering the most recently-diagnosed cancer, genital cancers (prostate or testicular) were the most frequently reported by males, followed by melanoma. Among female survivors, breast cancer was the most common, followed by genital cancers (cervical, uterine, or ovarian). Lifetime prevalence of cancer (excluding nonmelanoma skin cancer) was found to differ by sex and race/ethnicity: Women were more likely than men and White non-Hispanics more likely than all other race/ethnicities to report a history of cancer.

BRFSS Questions

1. Have you ever been told by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional that you had cancer?
[If "yes":]
2. How many different types of cancer have you had?
3. At what age were you told that you had cancer?
4. What type of cancer was it?

Figure 1. Age at first diagnosis of cancer (excluding nonmelanoma skin cancer) among New York cancer survivors aged 18 years or older, 2009-2010 BRFSS

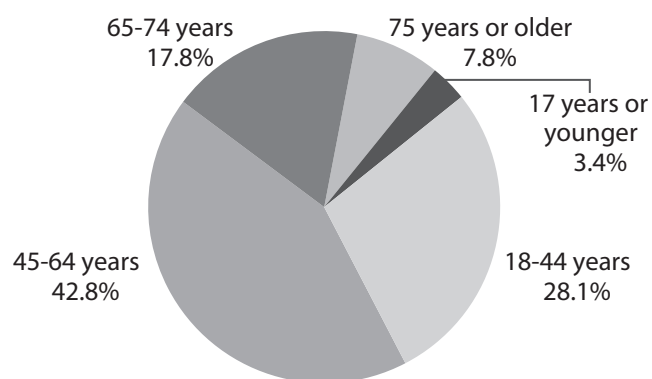


Figure 2. Years since first diagnosis of cancer (excluding nonmelanoma skin cancer) among New York cancer survivors aged 18 years or older, 2009-2010 BRFSS

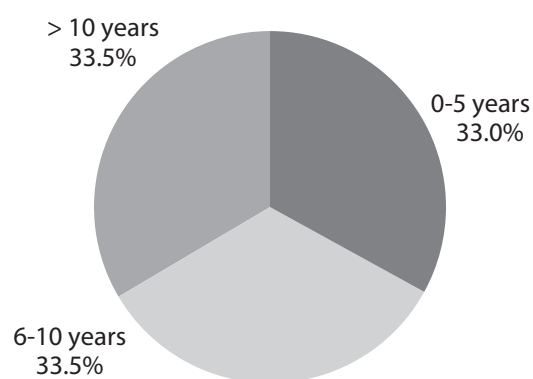


Table 1. Prevalence of cancer type among cancer survivors aged 18 years or older, by sex, 2009-2010 NYS BRFSS

Cancer type ^a	All survivors		Men		Women	
	%*	95% CI*	%*	95% CI*	%*	95% CI*
Breast	23.2	19.7-27.1	—**	—	38.7	33.5-44.2
Male genital^b	15.6	13.0-18.5	38.9	32.9-45.2	NA***	NA***
Prostate	15.4	12.8-18.3	38.4	32.3-44.7	NA***	NA***
Testicular	0.2	0.0-0.8	0.5	0.1-2.0	NA***	NA***
Melanoma	11.4	9.3-13.8	15.5	11.8-20.1	8.6	6.4-11.5
Female genital^b	10.8	8.7-13.4	NA***	NA***	18.1	14.6-22.2
Cervical	4.8	3.5-6.7	NA***	NA***	8.1	5.9-11.1
Other female genital ^c	6.0	4.4-8.0	NA***	NA***	10.0	7.4-13.3
Gastrointestinal	7.7	5.8-10.3	7.1	4.1-12.1	8.1	5.8-11.3
Colorectal	5.9	4.3-8.1	3.7	1.9-7.0	7.4	5.2-10.5
Other gastrointestinal ^d	1.8	0.8-3.7	3.4	1.3-8.4	0.7	0.3-1.8
Leukemia/Lymphoma	6.6	4.3-9.8	11.2	6.5-18.6	3.5	2.1-5.7
Other cancer types^e	6.3	4.7-8.5	5.0	3.0-8.2	7.2	5.0-10.3
Head/Neck, all	5.6	4.0-7.7	5.5	3.4-9.0	5.6	3.6-8.6
Urinary tract	4.5	3.1-6.6	8.0	5.2-12.2	2.2	1.0-4.8
Lung	3.2	1.8-5.8	2.8	1.2-6.3	3.6	1.6-7.6
Unknown/Refused	5.1	3.5-7.4	6.1	3.4-10.8	4.4	2.8-7.0

* % =Percentage; 95% CI =Confidence interval (at the 95 percent probability level). Percentages are weighted to population characteristics.

** No male respondents reported a history of breast cancer.

*** NA=not applicable.

a For cancer survivors who reported more than one cancer diagnosis, the cancer type reported was the most recently diagnosed cancer.

b Male and female genital cancer calculations use sex-specific denominators.

c Includes uterine and ovarian cancer.

d Includes esophageal, liver pancreatic, and stomach cancer.

e Includes bone, brain, neuroblastoma, and other not specified cancer types.

Table 2. Prevalence of cancer survivors* aged 18 years or older by selected characteristics, 2009-2010 NYS BRFSS

	%**	95% CI**
Total New York State (NYS) [n=8,656]	7.8	7.2-8.5
Sex		
Male	6.6	5.8-7.6
Female	8.8	8.0-9.8
Age (years)		
18-44	2.2	1.6-3.0
45-64	8.2	7.2-9.3
65-74	20.0	17.2-23.1
≥ 75	24.4	21.7-27.4
Race/ethnicity		
White, non-Hispanic	9.2	8.4-9.9
Black, non-Hispanic	6.7	4.8-9.3
Hispanic	4.1	2.6-6.3
Other, non-Hispanic	4.6	2.7-7.8
Annual household income		
<\$15,000	8.7	6.5-11.6
\$15,000 - <\$25,000	8.6	7.1-10.4
\$25,000 - <\$35,000	9.7	7.6-12.2
\$35,000 - <\$50,000	8.7	7.0-10.6
\$50,000 - <\$75,000	7.2	5.6-9.2
≥\$75,000	6.5	5.5-7.7
Missing ^a	8.2	6.5-10.4
Educational attainment		
Less than high school	8.0	5.9-10.8
High school or GED	8.3	7.2-9.7
Some post-high school	6.6	5.6-7.8
College graduate	8.0	7.0-9.2
Health care coverage (insured)		
Yes	8.3	7.7-9.0
No	4.0	2.3-6.7
Disability^b		
Yes	13.8	12.1-15.6
No	6.2	5.5-6.8
Residence		
New York City (NYC)	7.0	5.9-8.4
NYS exclusive of NYC	8.2	7.5-9.0

* Numerators do not include persons who reported nonmelanoma skin cancer.

** % =Percentage; 95% CI =Confidence interval (at the 95 percent probability level). Percentages are weighted to population characteristics.

a "Missing" category included because more than 10% of the sample did not report income.

b All respondents who report activity limitations due to physical, mental, or emotional problems OR have health problems that require the use of special equipment.

References

1. National Cancer Institute. Dictionary of Cancer Terms. <http://www.cancer.gov/dictionary>.
2. CDC. Cancer survivors—United States, 2007. *MMWR* 2011;60:269–72.
3. American Cancer Society. *Cancer treatment and survivorship facts & figures 2012-2013*. Atlanta:American Cancer Society;2012
4. New York State Cancer Registry. Estimated Cancer Prevalence by Cancer Site and Gender, New York State, 2008. New York State Department of Health, 2011. Available at: <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/>

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