

VII. MELANOMA

Melanoma, a cancer of the skin's pigment cells, is substantially more common among populations with fair complexions. In the Greater Bay Area, among NH White males, melanoma was the second most common newly diagnosed invasive cancer, behind prostate cancer, and accounting for 12.3% (5,839 cases) of all new invasive cancers from 2014-2018. Melanoma risk factors include fair skin complexion and exposure to sunlight over long periods of time [44]. From 2014 through 2018, the incidence rate of invasive melanoma for NH White males (59.0) was more than six times higher than for Hispanic males (7.5 per 100,000). Rates were extremely low in NH Black males (2.4 per 100,000) and females (0.72 per 100,000) and Asian/Pacific Islander males (1.2 per 100,000) and females (1.2 per 100,000). From 1988 through 2018, invasive melanoma incidence for NH White males rose rapidly by 3.0% per year and 2.6% per year among NH White females. During this same time period, rates increased for Hispanic males by 1.5% and females by 1.1% per year. Incidence rates for Asian/Pacific Islander and NH Black males and females have remained stable. Among NH White and Hispanic males and females during the recent 5-year period (2014-2018), incidence rates were significantly higher than rates for all of California (**Table 7**).

In situ melanoma is contained in the outer layer of skin and has not spread to deeper layers of the skin or surrounding tissues. It is likely that *in situ* melanoma is diagnosed exclusively through physician skin examination; as such, its occurrence may be associated with access to health care. Incidence rates of *in situ* melanoma in the Greater Bay Area for NH White males and females (59.6 and 37.6 per 100,000, respectively) were markedly higher than rates for California (41.9 and 25.3 for NH White males and females, respectively).

Mortality rates due to invasive melanoma in the Greater Bay Area have decreased slightly since 1988 for all races/ethnicities and for both sexes combined, by an average of -1.8% per year. For NH White females, a decrease in mortality rates, with a -2.3% average decline per year, was observed for 1988 through 2018, yet in NH White males, mortality rates remained stable. Melanoma mortality rates were two and a half times as high for NH White males as NH White females (4.4 vs. 1.7 per 100,000, respectively) for 2014-2018, a poorly understood difference. For NH White males and females, the 2014-2018 mortality rate in the Greater Bay Area (2.9 per 100,000) was slightly lower than the mortality rate in California (3.3 per 100,000).

Table 7: Invasive Melanoma Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates per 100,000 by Sex, Race/Ethnicity, and Region¹, 2014-2018

Race/Ethnicity	Greater Bay Area		California	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
All Racial/Ethnic Groups	34.8	20.5	30.7	17.6
NH White	59.0	37.6	49.2	29.9
NH Black	2.4	0.7	1.4	0.9
Hispanic	7.5	7.2	4.9	5.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2

¹ The two regions represented include: (1) the Greater Bay Area (nine-county region) and (2) all of California (including the nine-county Greater Bay Area region).