Many people have either had cancer themselves or know someone who has. In 2016, there were approximately 39,000 adult cancer survivors in Vermont. Among Vermonters, cancer is a leading cause of death. Each year, approximately 3,700 people are diagnosed and nearly 1,400 people die from cancer. The Vermont Department of Health is working in collaboration with Vermonters Taking Action Against Cancer (VTAAC) to reduce the impact of cancer on individuals, families, and communities in Vermont.

Published August 2018
Cancer County Fact Sheets
Cancer Related Risk Factors and Preventive Behaviors

The Franklin County rate of adult obesity (ages 20+) is worse than Vermont overall. The percentages of males and females ages 13-17 who are up-to-date on HPV vaccination recommendations are worse in Franklin County than Vermont overall. Other cancer related risk behavior rates are similar to state rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>Franklin</th>
<th>Vermont</th>
<th>Goal Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smoke Cigarettes, Currently (Adults)*</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>HV, SCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity (Ages 20+)*</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>HV, SCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunburn, Past 12 Months (Youth, Grades 9-12)</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>SCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent Females who are up-to-date for HPV Vaccination (Ages 13-17) D</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>SCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent Males who are up-to-date for HPV Vaccination (Ages 13-17) D</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>SCP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Cancer Incidence by Risk Factor: Newly Diagnosed Cases per Year

The incidence rate for tobacco-associated cancers in Franklin County is worse than the Vermont rate. All other risk factor associated cancer rates in Franklin County are similar to Vermont overall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000</th>
<th>Goal Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco Associated Cancers*¹</td>
<td>189.1</td>
<td>SCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity Associated Cancers*²</td>
<td>152.7</td>
<td>SCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoma (UV Associated Cancer)*³</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>SCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPV Associated Cancers*⁴</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>SCP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


¹ Tobacco use increases the risk of cancers of the lung, lip, oral cavity, throat, esophagus, stomach, colon and rectum, liver, pancreas, larynx (voice box), trachea, cervix, kidney, bladder, and acute myeloid leukemia.
² Excess weight increases the risk of cancers of the esophagus, stomach, colon and rectum, liver, gallbladder, pancreas, bone marrow, breast (postmenopausal), uterus, ovary, membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord (meninges), and thyroid.
³ Ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure increases the risk of melanoma.
⁴ Infection with the HPV virus increases the risk of cancers of the cervix, vulva, vagina, penis, anus, mouth, and throat.
Cancer Screening
Franklin County and Vermont cancer screening rates are similar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer Screening</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Goal Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breast Cancer Screening (Females, Ages 50-74)*</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>HV, SCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cervical Cancer Screening (Females, Ages 21-65)*</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>HV, SCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorectal Cancer Screening (Males and Females, Ages 50-75)*</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>HV, SCP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Cancer Diagnosis: Advanced Stage
Franklin County has a higher rate of advanced stage diagnosis for lung cancer, compared to Vermont overall. Franklin County has similar advanced stage diagnosis rates for cancers of the breast, and colon and rectum, compared to Vermont overall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer Diagnosis: Advanced Stage</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000</th>
<th>Goal Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breast* (Females, Ages 50+)</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>SCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorectal* (Males and Females, Ages 50+)</td>
<td>64.4</td>
<td>SCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung* (Males and Females, Ages 55+)</td>
<td>243.5</td>
<td>SCP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: VCR, 2011-2015
Note: The number of advanced stage cervical cancers is too small to report by county.

Cancer Survivors (Prevalence): Ever Diagnosed with Cancer
There are approximately 2700 adult cancer survivors living in Franklin County.

Note: Cancer prevalence excludes those whose only cancer was a skin cancer.

Cancer Mortality: Deaths Due to Cancer
The cancer death rate in Franklin County is similar to the Vermont rate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer Mortality</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000</th>
<th>Goal Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Cancer Deaths*</td>
<td>185.2</td>
<td>HV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indicates statistically worse\textsuperscript{D} than Vermont. 
Indicates statistically better\textsuperscript{D} than Vermont. 

\textsuperscript{D}Age adjusted to U.S. 2000 population.
\textsuperscript{†} Due to a difference in how the cervical cancer questions were asked in 2016\textsuperscript{††}, comparisons over time cannot be made.
\textsuperscript{††} Usually women who have had a hysterectomy are excluded from cervical cancer screening calculations. In 2016, women 45-65 were not asked whether they've had a hysterectomy, and as such the proportion meeting Pap test screening recommendations is underestimated.
\textsuperscript{‡} Rates based on 5 or fewer cases are not individually calculated.

\textsuperscript{D}New or changed Vermont State Cancer Plan Goal

**Data Sources:**
BRFSS: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
VCR: Vermont Cancer Registry
YRBS: Youth Risk Behavior Survey
IMR: Immunization Registry

**Definitions:**
\textbullet HPV Vaccination: If a patient begins the series before the age of 15, they need only 2 doses, at least 5 months apart. If a patient received two doses of HPV before age 15, but the doses were less than 5 months apart, they will need another dose to be up to date. If a patient received three doses of HPV before age 15, and there were 5 months between the first and third doses, the patient is up to date and DOES NOT need another dose. For additional details, please see the link below. [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6549a5.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6549a5.htm)
\textbullet Advanced Stage: Includes regional and distant stages (SEER Summary Stage).
\textbullet Cancer Survivor (Prevalence): A person is considered a cancer survivor (also referred to as cancer prevalence), if they have ever been diagnosed with non-skin cancer, from the time of diagnosis through the rest of their life.
\textbullet Breast Cancer Screening: Women aged 50-74 who have had a mammogram in the past two years.

**Definitions (continued):**
\textbullet Cervical Cancer Screening: Women aged 21-65 who have had a Pap test in the past three years.
\textbullet Colorectal Cancer Screening: Men and women aged 50-75 who have had any one of the following: a fecal occult blood test (FOBT) in the past year; a sigmoidoscopy in the past five years AND a FOBT in the past three years; or a colonoscopy in the past ten years.
\textbullet Obesity: Having a body mass index equal to or greater than 30 kg/m\textsuperscript{2}.
\textbullet Statistically worse/better: A range of values calculated using observed data, known as a confidence interval, was utilized to compare county and state rates. For this analysis 95% confidence intervals were used, meaning 95% of the time the true value of the estimate falls within the specified confidence interval. If the confidence intervals for the county and state do not overlap the estimates are considered to be significantly different from one another (not due to chance). Smaller populations tend to have wider confidence intervals, and therefore overlap more often when drawing comparisons. Due to small cancer population of some counties, seemingly large differences are not actual differences.

**Goal Type:**
SCP: State Cancer Plan, 2020
HV: Healthy Vermonter 2020

**References:**
State Cancer Plan: [http://www.healthvermont.gov/wellness/reports/cancer](http://www.healthvermont.gov/wellness/reports/cancer)
VTAAC: [http://vtaac.org](http://vtaac.org)

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