Gynecologic Cancer Overview

Gynecologic cancers are cancers that originate in the female reproductive system. In 2015, gynecologic cancers accounted for 12% of all cancers diagnosed among females in the United States.\(^1,2\) Similarly, among females in the northeast region and in Rhode Island, gynecologic cancers accounted for 13% and 11% of all cancers, respectively.\(^1,2,3\)

When compared to the United States and the northeast region, Rhode Island women have a similar distribution of gynecologic cancer by site (Figures 1.1-1.3). The uterus, including the endometrium, is the most common site of gynecologic cancer, accounting for more than half of all gynecologic cancers. Ovarian cancer is the second most common type of gynecologic cancer, accounting for approximately 20% of all gynecologic cancers. Cervical cancer is the third most common site of gynecologic cancer, accounting for approximately 13% of all gynecologic cancers.

**DATA SOURCES**

Data for the US and northeast region (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey) were provided by the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) and Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (SEER) Incidence—US Cancer Statistics Public Use Research Database, November 2017 submission (2001-2015).\(^1,2\) Rhode Island data are provided by the Rhode Island Cancer Registry.\(^3\) All analyses were conducted using SEER*Stat Software version 8.3.5.\(^4\)
Trends in Gynecologic Cancer Incidence

Gynecologic cancer incidence has remained unchanged across the United States, the northeast region, and in Rhode Island (Figure 2).\textsuperscript{1,2,3} The northeast region, including Rhode Island, has a higher incidence rate of gynecologic cancers compared to the United States.\textsuperscript{1,2,3}

Although the incidence rate of all gynecologic cancers has remained consistent, the incidence rates for specific sites have been increasing or decreasing during the same time period.

- **Uterine cancer**
  In Rhode Island, the incidence rate of uterine cancer significantly increased from 1995 to 2015 (Figure 2). A statistically significant increase in uterine cancer incidence was also observed in the US and in the northeast region from 2001 to 2015.\textsuperscript{1,2} Uterine cancer incidence is higher in Rhode Island and in the northeast region compared to the United States.\textsuperscript{1,2,3} Since uterine cancer accounts for such a large proportion of gynecologic cancers, the high incidence rate at this site greatly contributes to the higher incidence of gynecologic cancers in Rhode Island and in the northeast region overall.

- **Ovarian cancer**
  Ovarian cancer incidence rate significantly decreased in Rhode Island from 1995 to 2015 (Figure 2). In the US and in the northeast region, a statistically significant decrease in ovarian cancer incidence was also observed from 2001 to 2015.\textsuperscript{1,2}

- **Cervical cancer**
  Cervical cancer incidence rate significantly decreased in Rhode Island from 1995 to 2015 (Figure 2). This is consistent with statistically significant declines in cervical cancer incidence in the US and the northeast region from 2001 to 2015.\textsuperscript{1,2}

- **Vulvar cancer**
  In Rhode Island, the incidence rate of vulvar cancer did not change significantly from 1995 to 2015 (Figure 2). In the US and the northeast region, statistically significant increases in vulvar cancer have been observed from 2001 to 2015.\textsuperscript{1,2}

![Figure 2: Trend of Gynecologic Malignant Cancer Incidence, By Site, Rhode Island 1995-2015](image)

**DATA SOURCES**
Rhode Island data provided by the Rhode Island Cancer Registry.\textsuperscript{3} All analyses were conducted using SEER*Stat Software version 8.3.5.\textsuperscript{4}

**References**
\textsuperscript{1} Population-based registries that participate in CDC’s NPCR and/or the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI’s) SEER Program and meet high-quality data criteria. These registries cover approximately 99% of the US population.


\textsuperscript{3} Rhode Island Cancer Registry, Rhode Island Department of Health.

\textsuperscript{4} Surveillance Research Program, National Cancer Institute SEER*Stat software (www.seer.cancer.gov/seerstat) version 8.3.5.