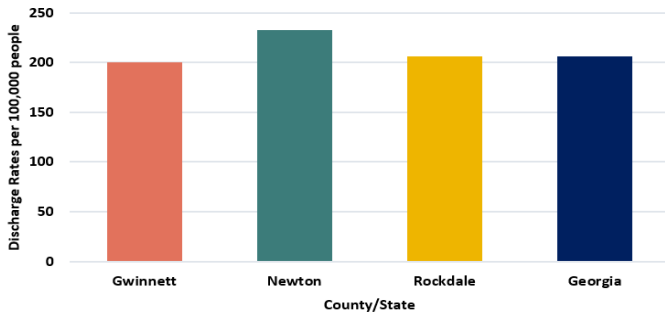
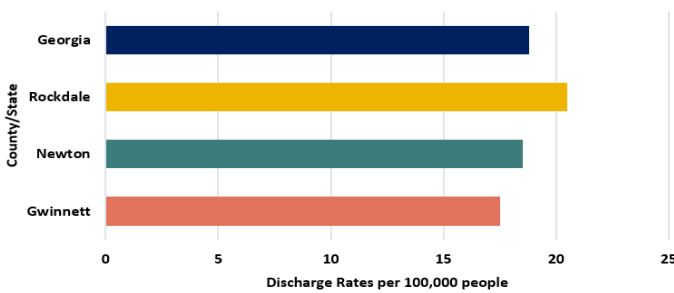


Chronic Disease Snapshot: Cancer

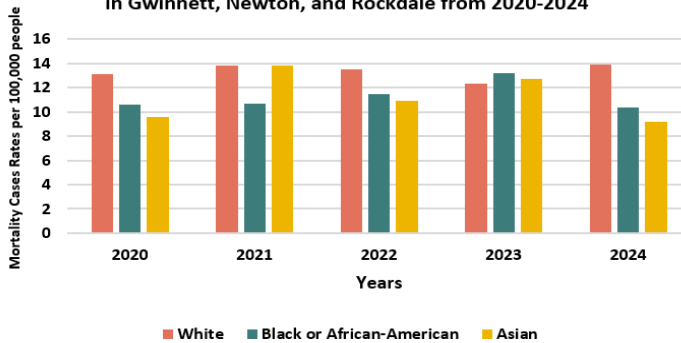
Age Adjusted Hospital Discharge Cancer Rates in GNR & Georgia, 2024³



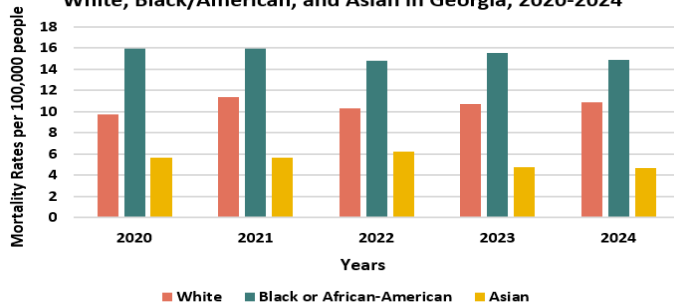
Age Adjusted Hospital Discharge Lung Cancer Rates in GNR & Georgia, 2023³



White and Black/African Colon Cancer Mortality Case Rates in Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale from 2020-2024³



Age-Adjusted Breast Cancer Mortality Rate among White, Black/American, and Asian in Georgia, 2020-2024³



Sources:

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Cancer*. <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/index.html>. Retrieved April 28th, 2026.
²American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts & Figures 2026*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2026.
³Georgia Department of Public Health. Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS). <https://oasis.state.ga.us/>.
⁴U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. (n.d.). *A & B Recommendations*. <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation-topics/uspstf-a-and-b-recommendations>. Retrieved April 28th, 2026.
⁵World Health Organization. (n.d.). *Colorectal cancer*. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/colorectal-cancer>. Retrieved April 28th, 2026.

Cancer

Cancer is the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells throughout parts of the body.¹ Lifestyle factors and genetics can increase the risk, either alone or combined. According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), over 2 million new cancer diagnoses are expected in 2026 and about 626,000 people are expected to die from their cancer diagnoses. The risk of developing cancer greatly increases with age.²

In our district, the cancers with the highest death rates are:

1. Lung Cancer (20.5 cases per 100,000 people)
2. Colon Cancer (11.5 cases per 100,000 people)
3. Breast Cancer (10.5 cases per 100,000 people)

Risk Factors

Known risk factors include a family history of cancer, alcohol consumption, obesity, tobacco use and having human papilloma virus (HPV). Risk factors differ based on the type of cancer.

Treatment

There are multiple treatments for cancers. Common treatments include surgeries to remove the cancer, and therapies like chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

Lung Cancer

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women worldwide. Smoking is the primary cause of lung cancer, and is cited as a risk factor in about 80% of cases.¹ Secondhand smoke, asbestos, radon and other air pollutants have been shown to increase the risk of lung cancer as well.¹ The US Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends screening for adults aged 50-80 years old who have a 20 pack-year smoking history and currently smoking or quit smoking within the past 15 years.⁴

Colon Cancer

Colon cancer is the 3rd leading cause of cancer worldwide and the 2nd leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide. It statistically affects individuals aged 50 and above.⁵ The USPSTF recommends screening for colon cancer for most individuals starting at age 45.⁴

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide, excluding skin cancer. Family history, smoking and alcohol consumption contribute to developing breast cancer. Breast cancer deaths are steadily decreasing due to an increase in awareness and research.¹ The USPSTF recommends getting biennial cancer screening mammograms from ages 40-74.⁴

Prevention

Making healthy choices, being screened, in accordance with medical guidelines and being vaccinated (HPV) can help reduce the chance of developing cancer. Smoking cessation, limiting alcohol intake, eating a healthy/balanced diet, exercising and limiting sun exposure are examples of healthy choices people can make to reduce their cancer risk.¹