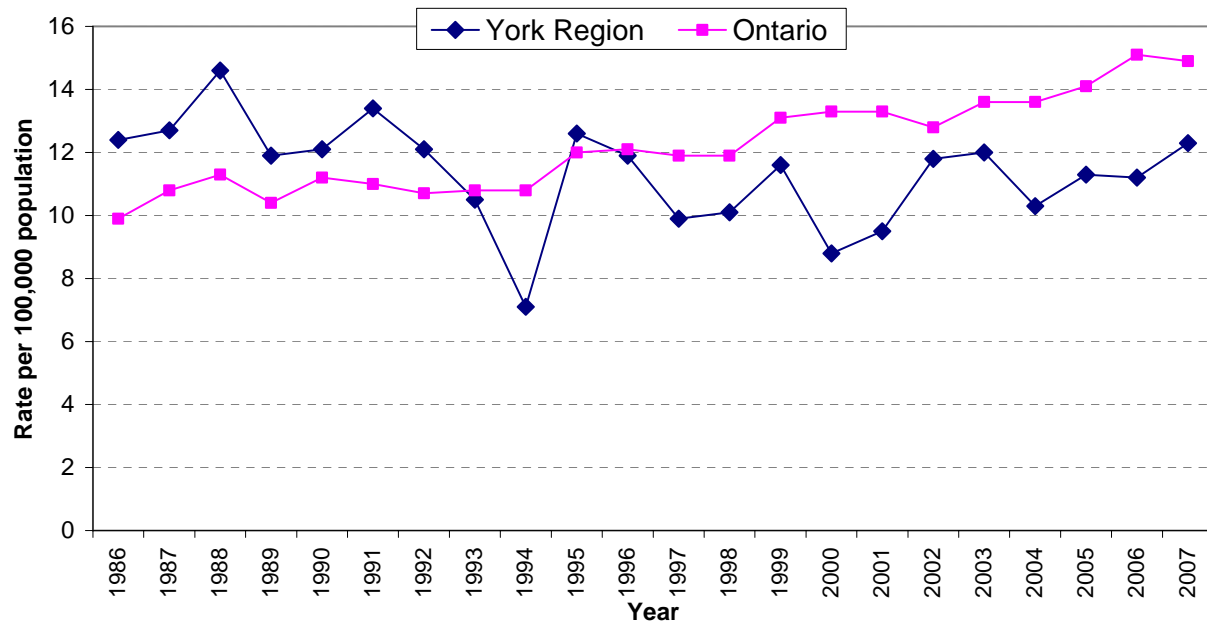


## Malignant Melanoma Incidence

This summary focuses on the rate (per 100,000) and total number of cases of malignant melanoma in York Region and Ontario.

Ontario Public Health Standards, Chronic Diseases and Injuries Program Standards, Chronic Disease Prevention – Req 1.

### Age-Standardized Incidence Rate<sup>†</sup> for Malignant Melanoma, York Region and Ontario, 1986-2007



<sup>†</sup> Rate age standardized to the 1991 Canadian population standard

Data Source: Ontario SEER\*Stat (Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Statistical Program), National Cancer Institute Cancer Incidence and Mortality Database 1986-2007 and Associated Populations Data, Cancer Care Ontario.

### Interpretation:

- In 2007, the incidence rate of malignant melanoma in York Region was 12.3 per 100,000 residents compared to a low of 7.1 per 100,000 in 1994. Between 1986 and 2007, the annual percent change (APC) in malignant melanoma incidence in York Region was a decrease of 0.5% per year (not statistically significant). A 2.0% decrease per year (statistically significant) was observed in malignant melanoma incidence during the period of 1986 and 2000, and rates were stable between 2001 and 2007.
- The total number of malignant melanoma cancer cases in York Region ranged from 39 cases in 1994 to 127 cases in 2007. This compares to a range of 916 cases in 1986 to 2,255 cases in 2007 for Ontario.
- Between 1986 and 2007 the York Region malignant melanoma incidence rate was significantly lower than the Ontario rate. Provincial incidence rates for malignant melanoma ranged from a low of 9.9 per 100,000 in 1986 to 15.1 per 100,000 in 2006.
- In 2002, 2003 and 2007, incidence rates for malignant melanoma for York Region men were significantly higher than those for York Region women. No significant differences in incidence by sex were observed across the other years of data collection since 1986.

- In 2007, the age-specific malignant melanoma incidence rates for York Region were:
  - 5.4 per 100,000 for 20 to 44 year olds;
  - 22.7 per 100,000 for 45 to 64 year olds; and
  - 49.8 per 100,000 for residents aged 65 years and older (data not shown).

#### **Data Notes:**

Cancer incidence data for York Region and Ontario are provided to York Region Community & Health Services Department through the Ontario Cancer Registry of Cancer Care Ontario. The Ontario Cancer Registry (OCR) is responsible for gathering, processing and storing all newly diagnosed cases of cancer. Included in the OCR database are all Ontario residents who have been diagnosed with cancer or have died from cancer. All cancers, with the exception of non-melanoma skin cancer, are registered. Although it is not required legally to report cancer incidents, the Cancer Act provides a legal mandate for Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) to compile and record the data.

Malignant melanoma is a type of skin cancer that begins in the skin cells called melanocytes, which makes melanin, the pigment that gives skin its natural colour. Cases of malignant melanoma were classified according to the Ontario Cancer Registry site recoding algorithm.

The age standardized incidence rate presented is the total number of cases per 100,000 residents that would occur if York Region had the same age distribution of a chosen standard population. This statistical adjustment minimizes the effects of age differences when comparing rates in different populations or over time.

Annual percent change (APC) is a measure to assess the rate of change over time of an incidence or mortality rate, calculated by fitting a linear model to the annual rates after applying a logarithmic transformation.

Data are analyzed based on the residence of the client. Records were excluded from this analysis if the case was not attributed to a particular public health unit.

Statistical significance was examined using Ontario SEER\*Stat (Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Statistical Program) and the Joinpoint Regression Program, The Statistical Research and Applications Branch, National Cancer Institute. Statistical testing for comparisons by sex was completed using Computer Programs for Epidemiologists: WINPEPI Version 1.31. Salt Lake City, Utah: Sagebrush Press; 01.