

# Differences in Colorectal Cancer by Minnesota Region

## DATA BRIEF

Colorectal cancer affects every corner of Minnesota. For data analysis purposes, this fact sheet compares colorectal cancer across eight different State Community Health Service Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) regions in the state. SCHSAC is a group of public health representatives from across the state and the regions are groups of counties organized by their geographic location. Greater Minnesota has seven SCHSAC regions, the Twin Cities metropolitan area is the eighth.

### Quick facts

- Colorectal cancer rates are higher in most of Greater Minnesota than in the Twin Cities Metro area. Six of the seven regions in Greater Minnesota have colorectal cancer incidence rates higher than the Twin Cities Metro region.
- The Southwest and Northwest regions have late-stage colorectal cancer incidence rates more than 40% higher than the Twin Cities Metro region.
- Four of the seven regions in Greater Minnesota have colorectal cancer mortality rates substantially higher (30% or more) than the Twin Cities Metro region.

### Incidence rates (new diagnoses)

The colorectal cancer incidence rate is 13% higher in Greater Minnesota than in the Twin Cities Metro region.

Region	2017-2021 Annual Avg. Number of Diagnoses	2017-2021, Age-Adjusted Incidence/100,000 Population/Year	Relative Difference, Greater MN vs. Metro (* indicates statistical significance)
Twin Cities Metro	1,161	33.8	Reference
Greater Minnesota	1,256	38.3	13%*

The colorectal cancer incidence rate across Greater Minnesota regions ranges from 4 to 32% higher than the Twin Cities Metro rate.

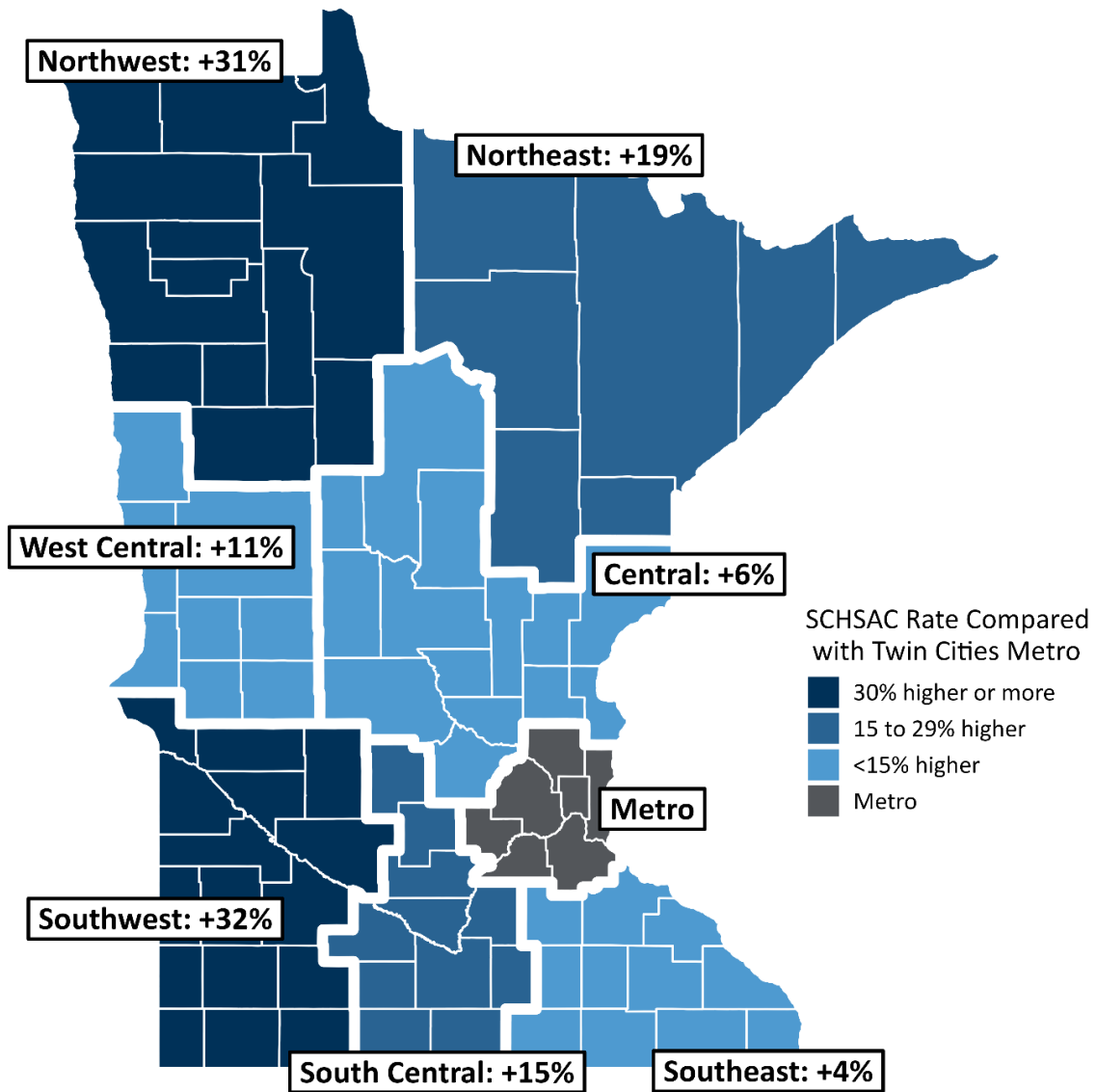
Region	2017-2021 Annual Avg. Number of Diagnoses	2017-2021 Age-Adjusted Incidence/100,000/Year	Relative Difference, Greater MN vs. Metro (* indicates statistical significance)
Twin Cities metro	1,161	33.8	Reference
Southeast	228	35.1	4%
South Central	150	38.8	15%*
Southwest	138	44.5	32%*

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Region	2017-2021 Annual Avg. Number of Diagnoses	2017-2021 Age-Adjusted Incidence/100,000/Year	Relative Difference, Greater MN vs. Metro (* indicates statistical significance)
Central	332	35.9	6%*
West Central	101	37.6	11%*
Northwest	121	44.5	31%*
Northeast	186	40.3	19%*

Six of the seven Greater Minnesota regions have colorectal cancer incidence rates higher than the Metro region. The Southwest and Northwest regions have the highest incidence rates (32% and 31% higher than the Twin Cities Metro rate, respectively).

**Rates of new colorectal cancer diagnoses: SCHSAC regions vs. Twin Cities Metro.**



## Late-stage incidence rates (new late-stage diagnoses)

The late-stage colorectal cancer incidence rate is 14% higher in Greater Minnesota than in the Twin Cities Metro.

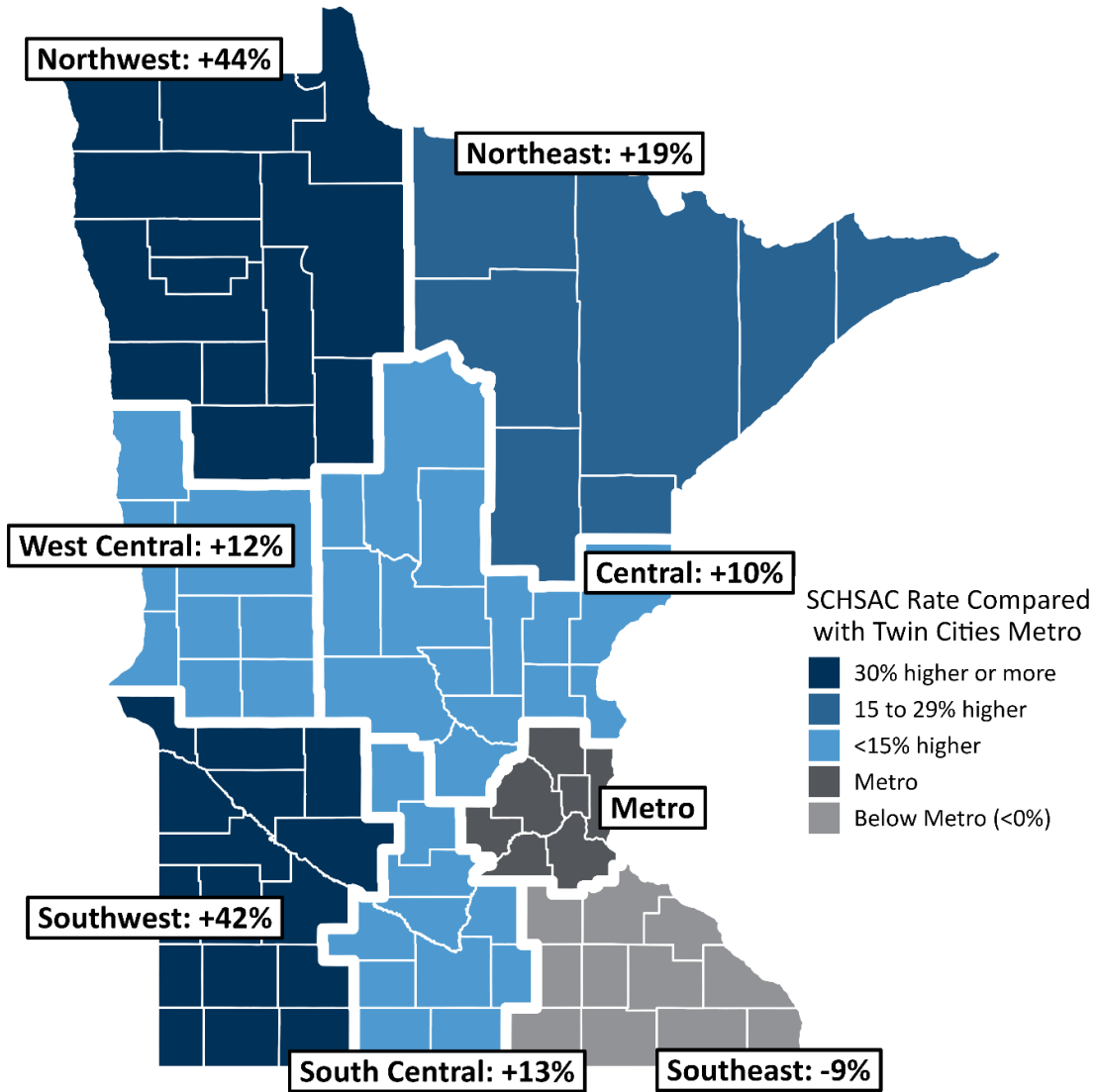
Region	2017-2021 Annual Avg. Number of Late-Stage Diagnoses	Percentage Diagnosed at Late Stage	2017-2021 New Late-Stage Diagnoses/ 100,000/Year	Relative Difference, Greater MN vs. Metro (* indicates statistical significance)
Twin Cities Metro	665	57%	19.5	Reference
Greater Minnesota	719	57%	22.1	14%*

The late-stage colorectal cancer incidence rate across Greater Minnesota SCHSAC regions range from 9% lower to 44% higher than the Twin Cities Metro.

Region	2017-2021 Annual Avg. Number of Late-Stage Diagnoses	Percentage Diagnosed at Late Stage	2017-2021 Age-Adjusted Late-Stage Incidence/ 100,000/ Year	Relative Difference, Greater MN vs. Metro (* indicates statistical significance)
Twin Cities metro	665	57%	19.5	Reference
Southeast	115	50%	17.8	-9%
South Central	84	56%	22.0	13%*
Southwest	83	61%	27.6	42%*
Central	196	59%	21.4	10%*
West Central	59	58%	21.7	12%
Northwest	75	62%	28.1	44%*
Northeast	107	58%	23.1	19%*

Five of the seven regions in Greater Minnesota have a lower rate of late-stage colorectal cancer than the Twin Cities Metro region. The rates in the Southwest and Northwest regions are substantially higher than in the Metro region (42% and 44% higher respectively).

**Rates of new late-stage colorectal cancer diagnoses: SCHSAC regions vs. Twin Cities Metro.**



## Mortality rates (colorectal cancer deaths)

The colorectal cancer mortality rate is 15% higher in Greater Minnesota than in the Twin Cities Metro.

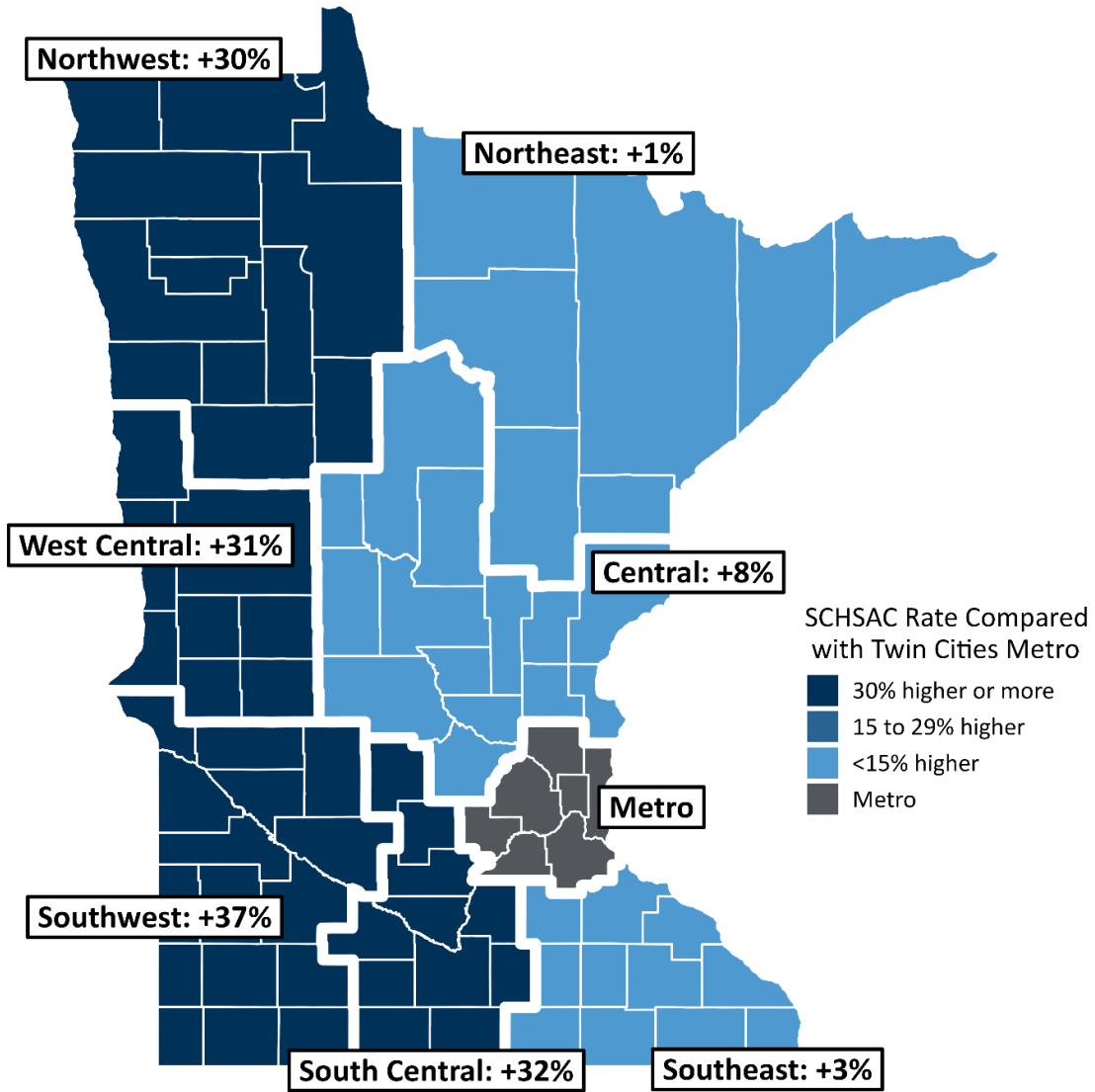
Region	2017-2021 Annual Avg. Number of Deaths	2017-2021 Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate/100,000/Year	Relative Difference, Greater MN vs. Metro (* indicates statistical significance)
Twin Cities Metro	370	10.8	Reference
Greater Minnesota	432	12.4	15%*

Colorectal cancer mortality rates across Greater Minnesota regions range from 1 to 37% higher than the Twin Cities Metro rate.

Region	2017-2021 Annual Avg. Number of Deaths	2017-2021 Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate/100,000/Year	Relative Difference, Greater MN vs. Metro (* indicates statistical significance)
Twin Cities metro	370	10.8	Reference
Southeast	79	11.1	3%
South Central	60	14.2	32%*
Southwest	51	14.7	37%*
Central	108	11.6	8%
West Central	40	14.0	31%*
Northwest	41	13.9	30%*
Northeast	54	10.9	1%

Compared with the Twin Cities Metro region, colorectal cancer mortality rates are substantially higher in South Central, Southwest, West Central and Northwest regions (32%, 37%, 31%, and 30% respectively).

Rates of colorectal cancer deaths: SCHSAC regions vs. Twin Cities Metro.



Five-year relative survival

Survival is highest when colorectal cancer is detected at early stage.

Stage at Diagnosis	Number of New Diagnoses 2014-2020	Percent Diagnosed at Each Stage	5-Year Relative Survival Percentage
All malignant	15,998	100%	68%
Early	5,983	37%	91%
Late	9,302	58%	55%
Unstaged/Unknown	933	6%	—

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When colorectal cancer is localized to the tissue of origin (early stage at diagnosis) five-year relative survival is 91%. But when cancer is diagnosed after it has spread further into the colorectum or the body (late stage at diagnosis) relative survival drops to 55%. Unfortunately, only 37% of colorectal cancers are diagnosed at early stage, compared with 58% at late stage.

### Five-year relative survival percentages are similar across SCHSAC regions.

Region	5-Year Relative Survival Percentage	Absolute Difference in Survival Percentage, Greater MN minus Metro
Twin Cities Metro	68%	Reference
Southeast	69%	1%
South Central	69%	1%
Southwest	68%	1%
Central	67%	1%
West Central	69%	1%
Northwest	67%	-1%
Northeast	65%	3%

The percentage of cancer patients surviving their cancer at least five years after diagnosis varies from 65 to 69%, with only small variation across the eight regions.

### For more information

- [Minnesota Cancer Reporting System \(MCRS\) Cancer Technical Notes](https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mcrs/technicalnotes.html)  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mcrs/technicalnotes.html>
- [Colorectal Cancer Facts & Figures](https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mcrs/docs/colorectalff.pdf) <https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mcrs/docs/colorectalff.pdf>
- [Colorectal Cancer Disparities In Minnesota Fact Sheet](https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mcrs/docs/crcdispfs.pdf)  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mcrs/docs/crcdispfs.pdf>
- [Colorectal Cancer Dashboard](https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mcrs/data/dashcrc.html) <https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/mcrs/data/dashcrc.html>
- [SCHSAC: State Community Health Services Advisory Committee](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/schsac/index.html)  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/schsac/index.html>

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