

# **Cancer Incidence in Carlisle**

**Cancer incidence refers to newly diagnosed cases of cancer in a given time period. The Carlisle Board of Health routinely monitors the incidence of cancer in the town using data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Massachusetts Cancer Registry (MCR) city-and-town cancer surveillance data.**

## **Background**

**The Massachusetts Cancer Registry uses four-year clusters to study cancer rates. For each period, the MCR compares the expected number of cases of 23 different types of cancer with the observed number of cancer cases during that time. The number of expected cases for each town is calculated by applying statewide cancer rates of each specific type of cancer to the population distribution of the town (based on sex and eighteen age groups).**

**Given Carlisle's low population, a single additional case can have a large effect on the calculated cancer rate. It is important to understand this caveat when examining the data.**

**The DPH also cautions that apparent increases or decreases in cancer incidence over time might reflect changes in diagnostic methods or case reporting rather than a true change in cancer incidence. In particular, better testing equipment or improved cancer reporting practices might be the real cause of changes in reported rates. Nevertheless, it is important to explore this data in order to identify trends in cancer incidence. Examination of incidence data, risk factors, and individual preventive practices all contribute to the broader prevention of cancer.**

The following charts show that Carlisle’s overall number of cancer cases has increased between 2001 and 2012 in men and women. This could reflect the population increase during that time; if the increase in observed cases is solely population-related, the number of observed and expected cases would track closely. It could also reflect that Carlisle residents, compared with the state as a whole, have greater access to good health care and more accurate diagnostic methods.

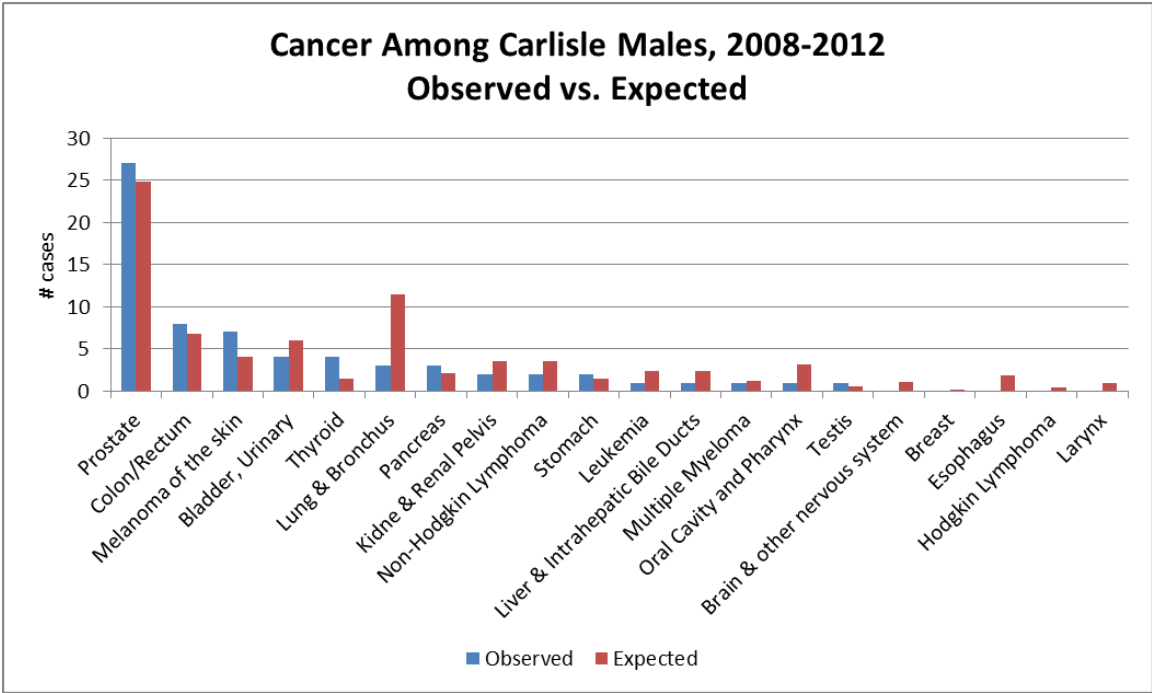
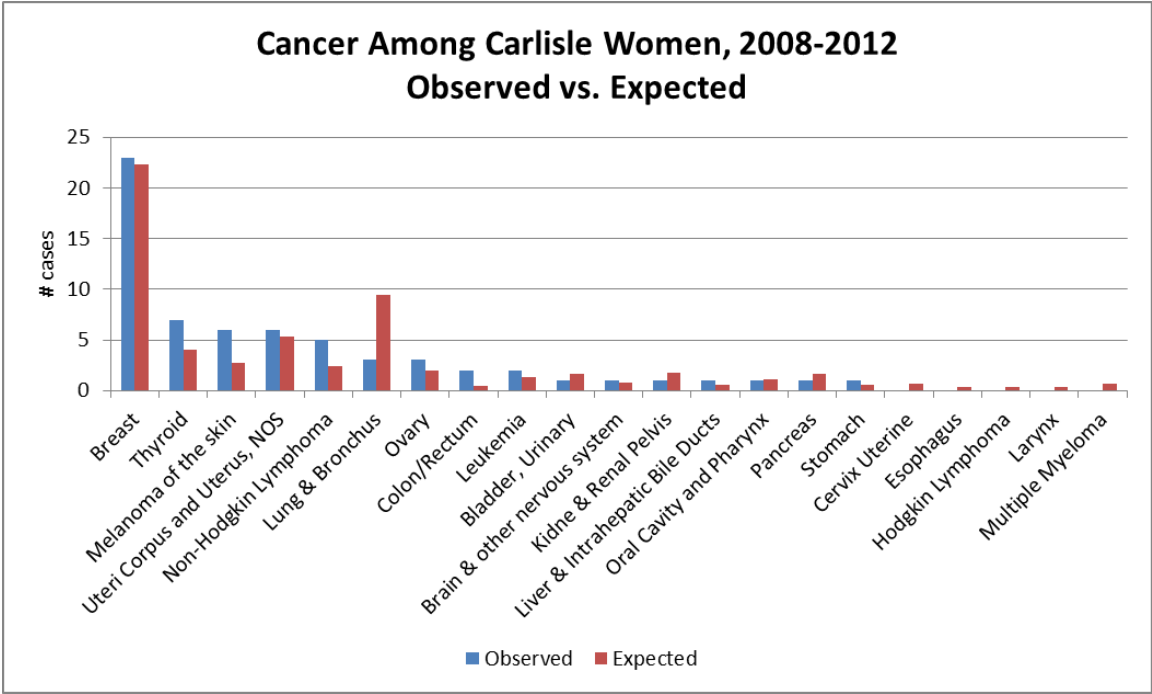
For 2008-2012 (most recent town reporting period), the top five cancers for Carlisle females and males are:

**2008-2012**

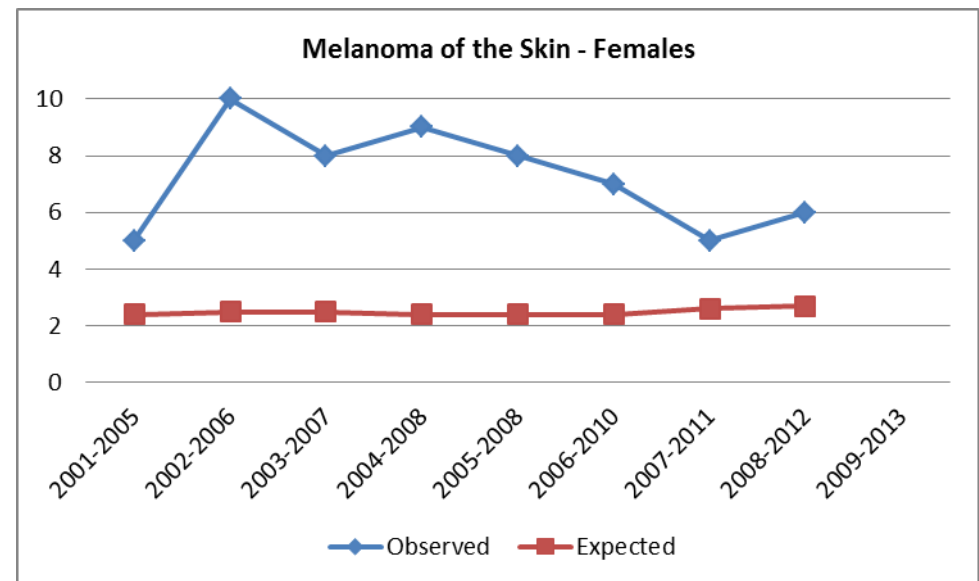
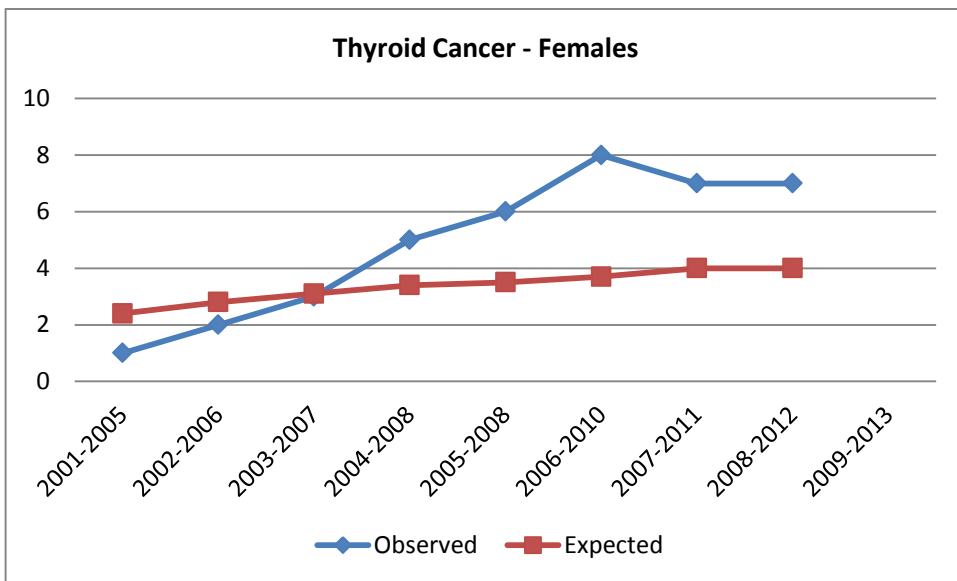
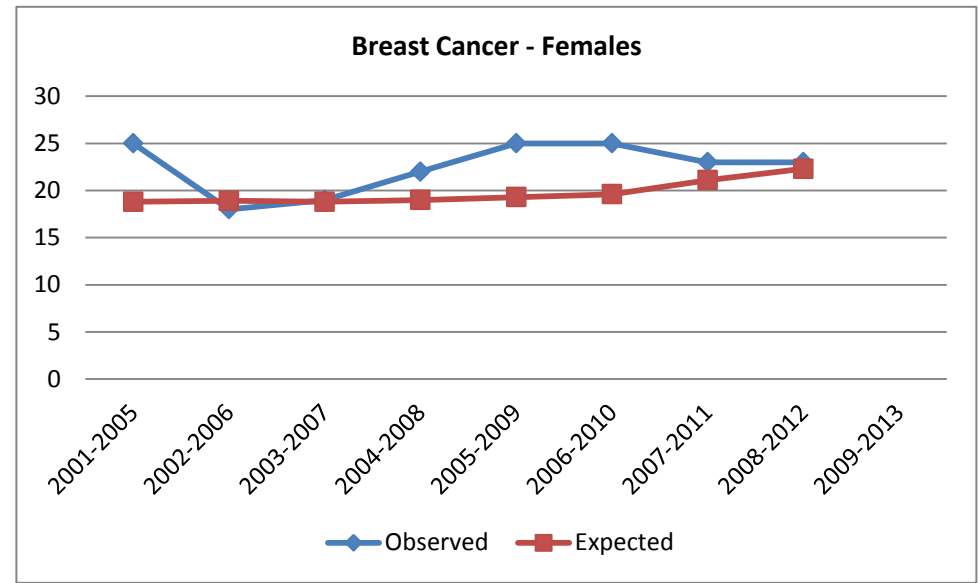
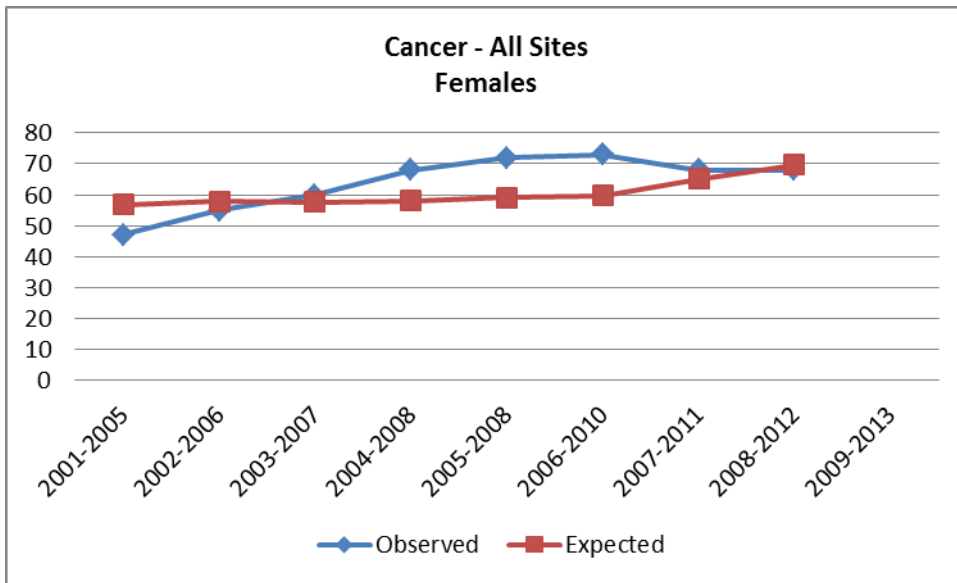
<b>FEMALES</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>Expected</b>
Breast	23	22.3
Thyroid	7	4.0
Melanoma of the skin	6	2.7
Uteri Corpus and Uterus, NOS	6	5.3
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	5	2.4

<b>MALES</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>Expected</b>
Prostate	27	24.8
Colon/Rectum	8	6.8
Melanoma of the skin	7	4.0
Bladder, Urinary	4	6.0
Thyroid	4	1.5

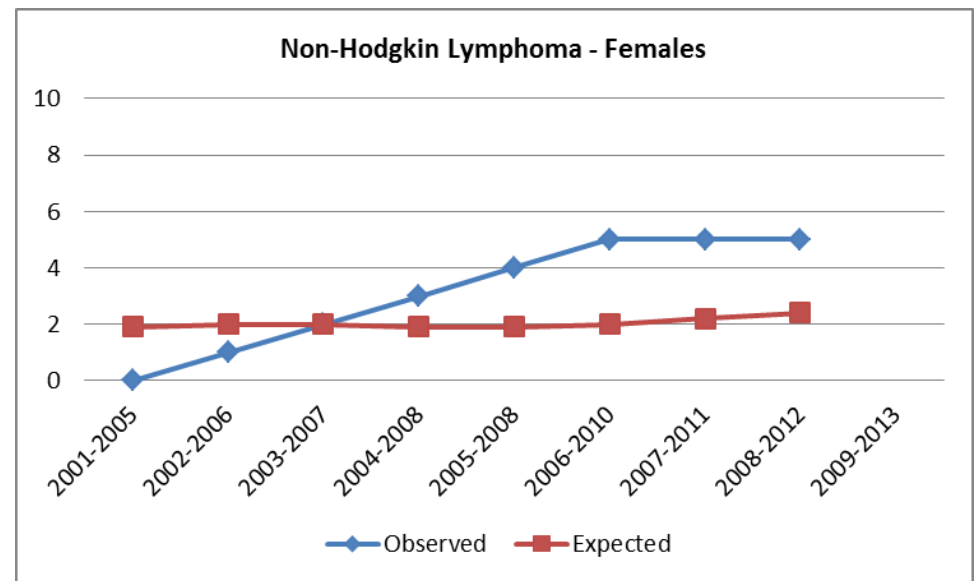
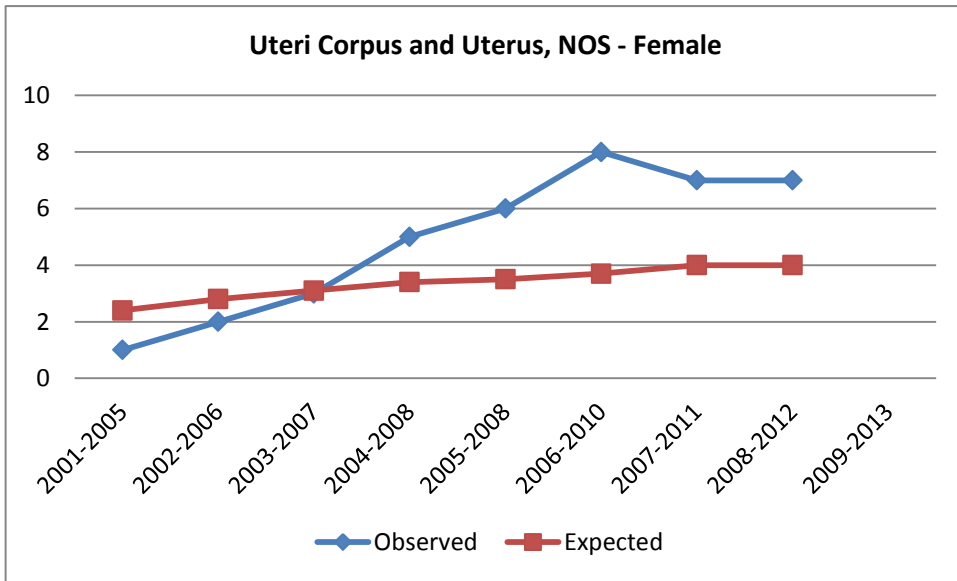
Full reports of the Massachusetts Cancer Registry data can be found using a web search for “Massachusetts Cancer Registry” or by directly accessing the following website:  
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/admin/dmoa/cancer-registry/>



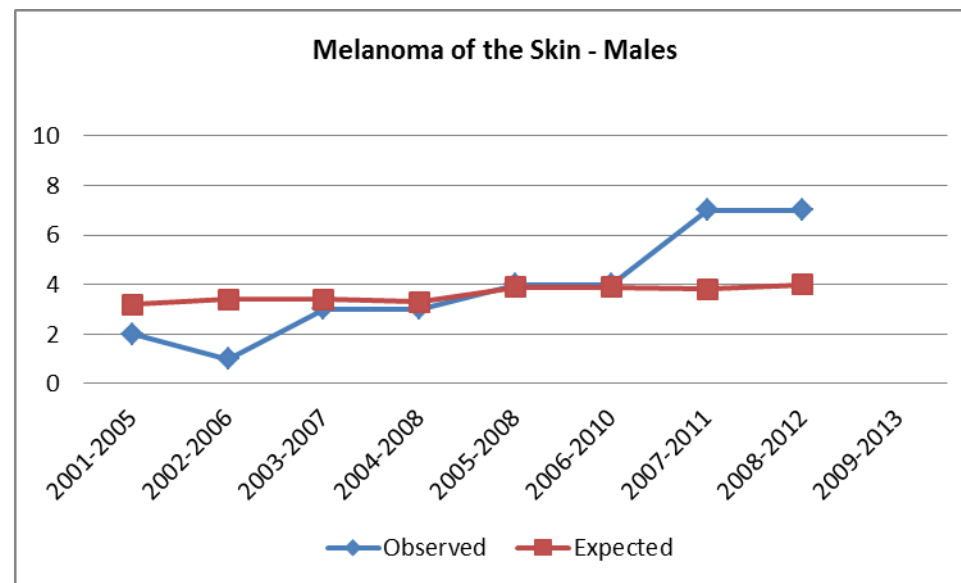
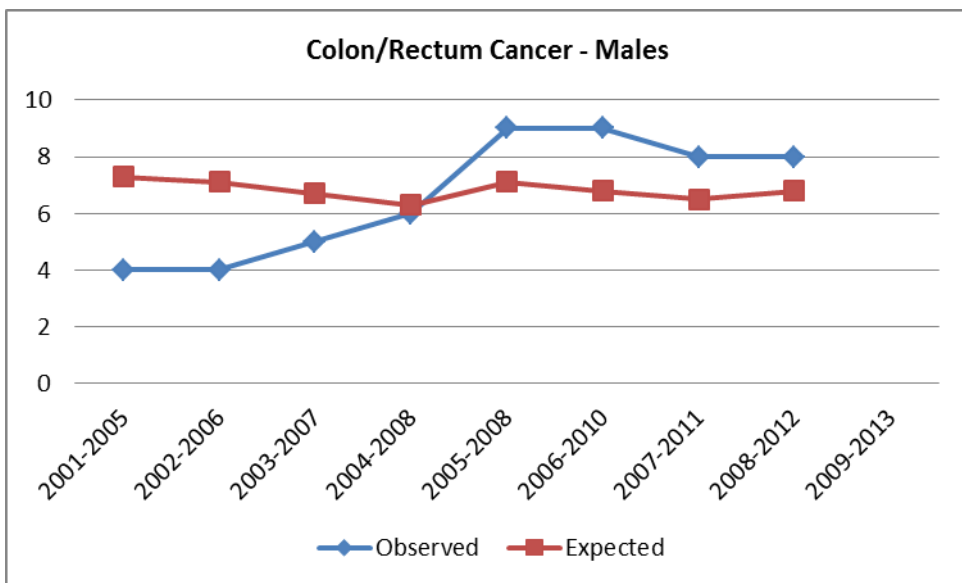
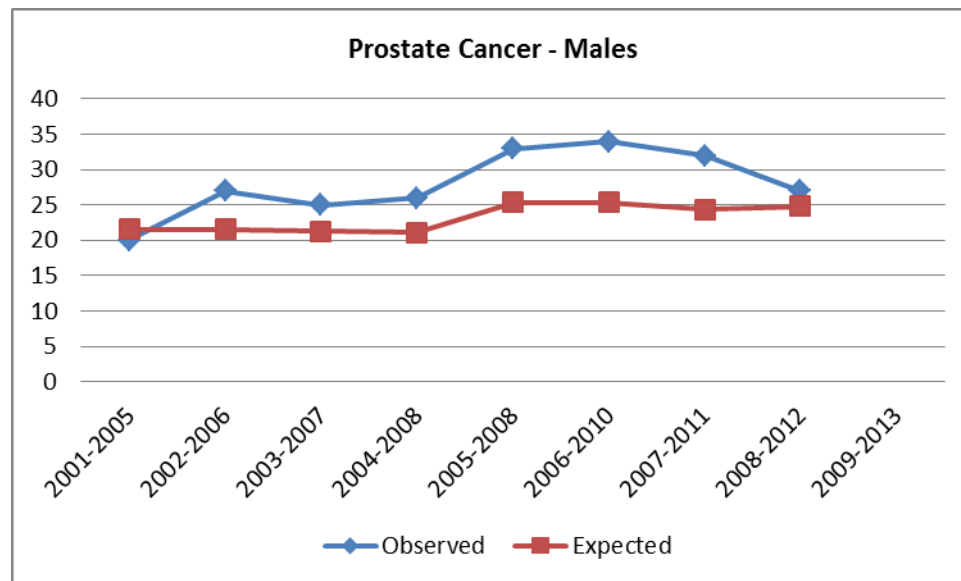
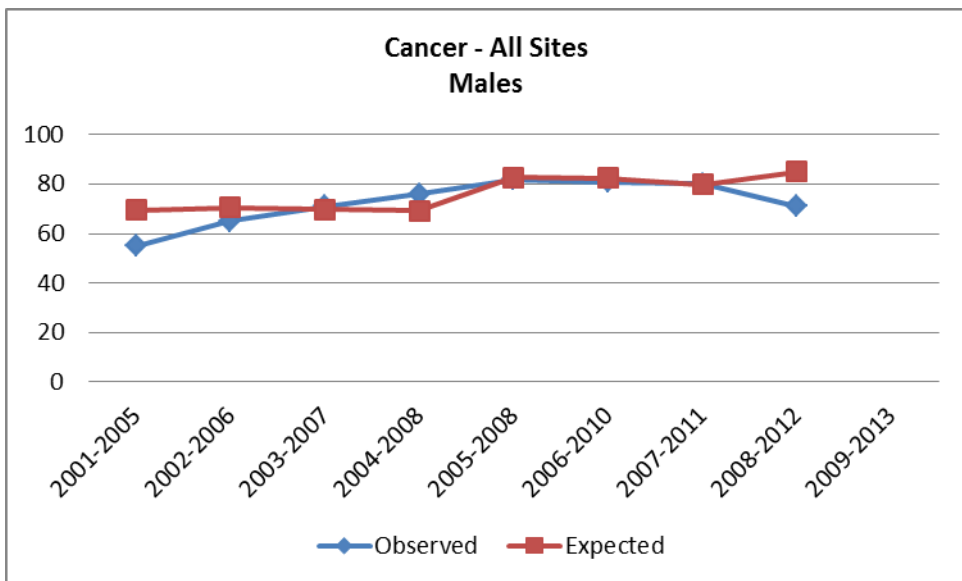
# FEMALES IN CARLISLE



# FEMALES IN CARLISLE



# MALES IN CARLISLE



# MALES IN CARLISLE

