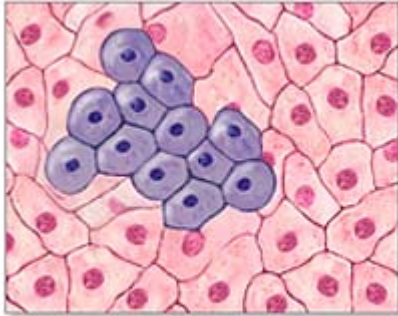




# Diversity Committee

## Fact Sheet: Cancer



ADAM

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States, with

more than a half million Americans dying from some form of cancer annually.

Picture from <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/cancer.html>

### Mortality Rates by Site, by Race and Ethnicity, US, 1999-2003 (per 100,000 age adjusted)

	Rate	
<b>Breast Female</b>		
American Indian/Alaska Native	13.8	
Black	34.4	
White	25.4	
Hispanic	16.3	
Asian/Pacific Islander	12.6	
<b>Colon &amp; Rectum</b>		
	Male	Fem.
American Indian/Alaska Native	15.9	11.1
Black	33.6	23.7
White	23.7	16.4
Hispanic	17.5	11.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	15.3	10.5
<b>Lung &amp; Bronchus</b>		
	Male	Fem.
American Indian/Alaska Native	42.9	27.0
White	73.8	42.0
Black	98.4	39.8
Hispanic	37.2	14.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	38.8	18.8

Table from ACS, Surveillance Research, 2007

### Highlight: Incidence Rates of Top 4 Cancer Sites

#### Incidence Rates by Site, by Race and Ethnicity, US, 1999-2003 (per 100,000 age adjusted)

	Rate	
<b>Breast Female</b>		
American Indian/Alaska Native	74.4	
Black	111.5	
White	130.8	
Hispanic	92.6	
Asian/Pacific Islander	91.2	
<b>Colon &amp; Rectum</b>		
	Male	Fem.
American Indian/Alaska Native	52.7	41.9
Black	70.2	53.5
White	63.7	45.9
Hispanic	52.4	37.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	52.6	38.0
<b>Lung &amp; Bronchus</b>		
	Male	Fem.
American Indian/Alaska Native	55.5	33.8
White	88.8	56.2
Black	110.6	50.3
Hispanic	52.7	26.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	56.6	28.7
<b>Prostate Male</b>		
American Indian/Alaska Native	70.7	
Black	243.0	
White	156.0	
Hispanic	141.1	
Asian/Pacific Islander	104.2	

Table from ACS, Surveillance Research, 2007

## **Special Focus: Cancer in Racial and Ethnic Minorities**

Overall, racial and ethnic minorities face numerous obstacles in receiving health care services. Factors that contribute to disparities in health care access include low income; inadequate health insurance; geographic, cultural, and language barriers; racial bias; and stereotyping (ACS, 2007). These factors can contribute to differences in morbidity and mortality between groups.

Compared with 11% of Whites, 24% of African Americans, and 23% of Hispanics/Latinos live below the poverty line. Moreover, 18% of African Americans and 35% of Hispanics/Latinos are uninsured, while 12% of whites lack health insurance (ACS, 2007).

### **African Americans**

African Americans are more likely to develop and die from cancer than any other racial or ethnic population (American Cancer Society [ACS], 2007).

The death rate from cancer among African American males is ~38% higher than among white males; for African American females it is about ~17% higher (ACS, 2007).

African Americans have a higher mortality rate than whites for each major cancer site (colorectal, male lung, female breast, and prostate) as well as a higher incidence rate for all of these cancers except female breast (ACS, 2007).

The 5-year relative survival rate for all cancers combined is lower for African Americans (57%) than it is for whites (68%) (ACS, 2007).

### **Hispanic/Latino**

Hispanics have lower incidence rates for all cancers combined and the major cancer sites compared to whites but have higher rates of cancers associated with infections such as uterine, cervix, liver, and stomach. For example, liver cancer is twice as high in Hispanic males and females as in whites (ACS, 2007).

### **American Indian/Alaska Native**

American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest incidence and death rates from kidney cancer in men and women of all racial and ethnic groups (ACS, 2007).

### **Asian American/Pacific Islander**

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have lower incidence rates than whites for most common cancer sites but have a higher incidence of cancers related to infections. They have the highest incidence and death rates from liver and stomach cancers of all racial and ethnic groups in both men and women (ACS, 2007).

### **Resources**

**American Cancer Society**  
<http://www.cancer.org>

**National Cancer Institute**  
<http://www.cancer.gov>

### **References**

**American Cancer Society. (2007). Cancer Facts & Figures 2007. Retrieved July 16, 2007 from <http://www.cancer.org/downloads/STT/CAFF2007PWSecured.pdf>**