Cancer Incidence and Mortality on Guam

A (brief) review of data

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Cancer on Guam

- Incidence by gender, site and ethnicity
- Mortality by site and ethnicity
- Comparison to US and other Pacific Islander cancer rates
- Implications for further research, outreach, prevention and screening
Context

• Males have a 1 in 2 chance of developing cancer over a lifetime.
• Females have a 1 in 3 chance of developing cancer over a lifetime

www.cancer.org
Incidence of New Cases of all Cancers in the U.S.A. 1975-2005


Summary

• While the incidence of cancer rose by 22% in males on Guam during this period, the incidence in males in the US continued to decline by nearly 2%.

• Male cancer mortality rates on Guam doubled (up 100%) while US mortality rates declined by 2%.

• Female cancer mortality rates jumped 73% while US rates remained steady.
Comparison of U.S. and Guam Mean Annual Age-Adjusted Top Four Cancer Incidence Rates by Ethnicity: 2003-2007

1. Cases per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the U.S. 2000 standard population. Data base current as of 3/24/09.

**For U.S. state: Uterus, NOS and Liver and Intrahepatic Bile Duct**

*Rates are suppressed if fewer than 5 cases were reported in a specific category


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**For U.S. stats: Uterus, NOS and Liver and Intrahepatic Bile Duct


Cases per 100,000 population, age-adjusted to the U.S. 2000 standard population.
Implications

• Lung cancer accounts for the highest number of deaths in the U.S. and in Guam for both men and women

• Medical professionals are in the front lines in screening, prevention and intervention

• Public policy must support tobacco-free and cancer-risk lowering lifestyles
Other Pacific Islanders

• How do rates for ethnic groups on Guam compare with other Pacific Islander groups?
  • Incidence
  • Mortality
  • Culture
  • Availability of cancer screening and care
Percentage Data for the Five Most Prevalent Cancers in Countries/Populations of the Pacific Ocean

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Moore, et.al., Cancer epidemiology in the Pacific Islands-past, present and future, APJCP, vol 10, Asian Epidemiology Supplement, 2009
Percentage Data for the Five Most Prevalent Cancers in Populations of the Pacific Ocean

Males

Percentage Data for the Five Most Prevalent Cancers in Populations of the Pacific Ocean

Females

Moore, et.al., Cancer epidemiology in the Pacific Islands-past, present and future, APJCP, vol 10, Asian Epidemiology Supplement, 2009
Pacific Islanders in the Pacific

• Tend to have similar cancer incidence
• Access to screening?
• Outreach and education to ameliorate cancer risk factors (cancer death rate inversely correlated with educational attainment-ACS, 2009)
• Cancer treatment and support
• Health insurance system needed to focus on prevention and be widely available
Guam

• The highest mortality site for both sexes is lung and bronchus.
  – Youth tobacco cessation program
• Most cancers in Pacific Island populations are linked to lifestyle/SES (smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, poor nutrition) or infections (HPV, Hepatitis B and C) and are candidates for interventions
• Cancer prevention, screening and education
• Cancer treatment and care
2009

- NIH funding for Cancer Research Center
- Opening of cancer center for radiation treatment
- Legislative action?
  - Increase in tobacco taxes to fund cancer registry, screening, prevention
  - Cancer Control Act of Guam
References

- [seer.cancer.gov](http://seer.cancer.gov) for statistics on US incidence and mortality rates and trends
“The greatest problem in communication is the illusion that it has been accomplished.”

George Bernard Shaw

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