Cancer in U.S. Hispanics/Latinos, 1995-2000

Executive Summary

Purpose

Since its inception, NAACCR has had an on-going commitment to provide estimates of high quality cancer incidence. In addition, NAACCR seeks to ensure that these data are inclusive of all racial/ethnic groups and geographic areas, providing the best representation of the entire United States. In particular, NAACCR has focused on identifying and addressing the gaps in cancer statistics for underserved populations, specific geographic areas, and certain minority subgroups. Most recently, volunteer members of NAACCR have addressed the need to enhance cancer information for race and ethnic populations other than the traditional categories of white and black. One result of this effort has been the development and application of a standardized approach, the NAACCR Hispanic Identification Algorithm (NHIA), to enhance the identification of Hispanic persons with cancer. Employing this standardized approach among the NAACCR member registries makes it possible to present the comprehensive cancer statistics found in this monograph, statistics reflecting the cancer experience of more than 86% of the U.S. Latino population.

Highlights of Major Findings

- Hispanic populations had lower incidence for all cancers combined and for the four leading cancers (breast, prostate, lung and colorectal) than non-Hispanic populations.
- Several specific cancers occurred at higher rates among Hispanic populations than among non-Hispanic populations, regardless of gender, including cancers of the liver, gallbladder, penis, and acute lymphocytic leukemia. Hispanic rates for cancers of the stomach and cervix were higher than those for non-Hispanic whites, and Hispanic rates for cancers of the testis and brain and non-Hodgkin lymphoma were higher than those for non-Hispanic blacks.
- Age-adjusted incidence rates among Hispanic populations varied widely by geographic area.
- As with adults, the overall incidence of most cancer sites in Hispanic children and adolescents was lower than in non-Hispanic populations. Some exceptions were the leukemias, Hodgkin lymphoma, and retinoblastoma.

Conclusion

The 2000 U.S. Census clearly confirmed the Hispanic/Latino population as the nation's fastest growing minority group, having grown to comprise about 12.5% of the total U.S. population. Similar to the general U.S. population, cancer is the second leading cause of death among Hispanic men and women, making the availability of cancer incidence statistics vital to cancer prevention and control efforts targeted to this complex, heterogeneous population[1,2]. This monograph provides the most current and comprehensive source for cancer incidence data for the U.S. Hispanic/Latino population.

CANCER IN U.S. HISPANICS/LATINOS, 1995-2000

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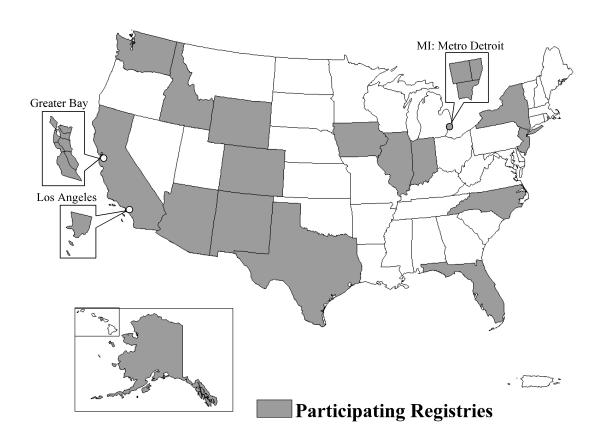
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