

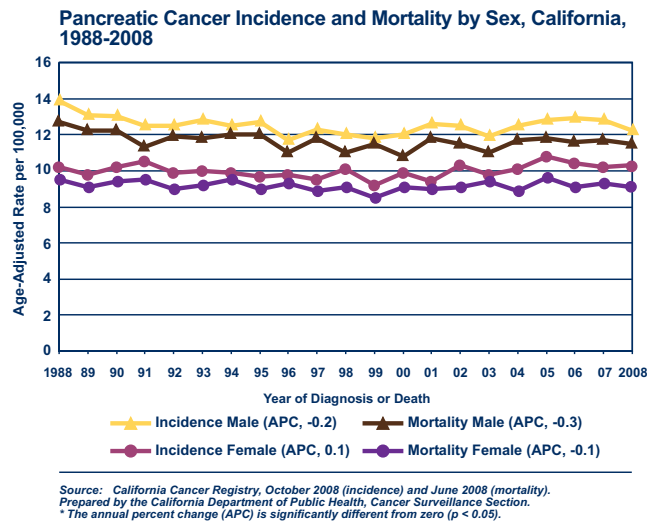
# PANCREATIC CANCER IN CALIFORNIA



Pancreatic cancer is the eleventh most commonly diagnosed cancer among Californian men and the ninth most commonly diagnosed cancer among women. However, pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer related death among both men and women. It is estimated that approximately 3,700 Californians will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2011 and about 3,500 will die of the disease.

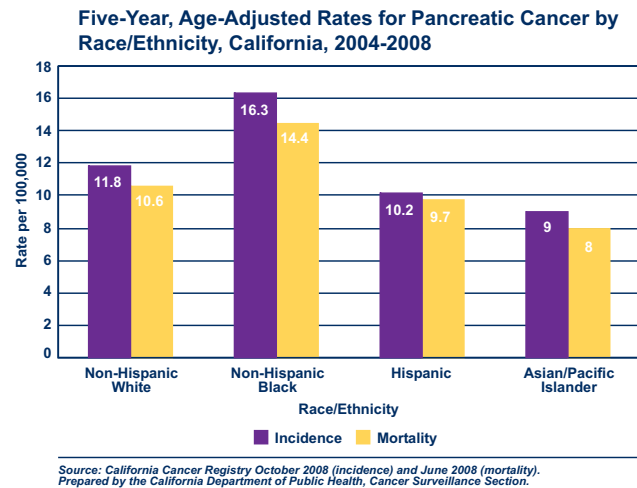
Overall, Californian men have higher rates of pancreatic cancer incidence and mortality than women. From 1988 to 2008, the incidence rate of pancreatic cancer decreased among men (non-significant decline of -0.2% per year; -7.6% overall) and increased among women (non-significant increase of 0.1% per year; 2.0% overall). During this same time period, the pancreatic cancer mortality rate declined among both men and women (non-significant declines of -7.2% overall and -1.4% overall, respectively) (Figure 1).

Figure 1



Among the four major racial/ethnic groups in California, non-Hispanic blacks have the highest five-year, age-adjusted pancreatic cancer incidence and mortality rates (16.3 per 100,000 and 14.4 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure 2). Despite having the highest rates, non-Hispanic blacks were the only racial/ethnic group in California to experience a statistically significant decline in pancreatic cancer mortality (-0.8% per year; -15.5% overall) from 1988 to 2008. Non-Hispanic whites have the second highest pancreatic cancer incidence and mortality rates, followed by Hispanics, and Asian/Pacific Islanders.

Figure 2



Relative survival estimates the probability that an individual will not die from a given cancer during the specified time following diagnosis. In California, the five-year relative survival for pancreatic cancer is 23.3% when the cancer is diagnosed at the localized stage and just 2% when the cancer is diagnosed at the distant stage. Nearly half of all pancreatic cancers diagnosed in California are diagnosed at the distant stage (Figure 3).

Figure 3

## Stage Distribution and Five-Year Relative Survival by Stage at Diagnosis for Pancreatic Cancer, California, 1999-2008

Stage at Diagnosis	Stage Distribution	Five-Year Relative Survival
Localized (confined to primary site)	8.0%	23.3%
Regional (spread to regional lymph nodes)	26.1%	8.9%
Distant (cancer has metastasized)	49.7%	1.9%
Unknown Stage	16.2%	3.8%



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