

KIDNEY CANCER IN CALIFORNIA



Kidney cancer is the seventh most commonly diagnosed cancer and the twelfth leading cause of cancer-related death among men in California. Among Californian women, kidney cancer is the tenth most commonly diagnosed cancer and the fourteenth leading cause of cancer-related death. It is estimated that approximately 5,200 Californians will be diagnosed with kidney cancer in 2011 and about 1,200 will die of the disease.

Overall, kidney cancer incidence and mortality rates are two times higher among men in California than among women (Figure 1). From 1988 to 2008, the incidence rate of kidney cancer has increased significantly among men (1.9% per year; 38.5% overall) and women (2.1% per year; 45.9% overall). During this same time period, the kidney cancer mortality rate has decreased significantly among men (-0.3% per year; -4.0% overall) and women (-0.6% per year; -10.5% overall) (Figure 1).

Among the four major racial/ethnic groups in California, non-Hispanic blacks have the highest five-year, age-adjusted kidney cancer incidence rate of 16.1 per 100,000, followed by Hispanics (14.4 per 100,000), non-Hispanic whites (13.7 per 100,000),

and Asian/Pacific Islander (7.1 per 100,000) (Figure 2). Non-Hispanic blacks and Hispanics have the highest five-year, age-adjusted kidney cancer mortality rates of 4.1 per 100,000, followed by non-Hispanic whites (3.7 per 100,000), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (2.0 per 100,000) (Figure 2). From 1988 to 2008, the kidney cancer incidence rate has increased significantly by approximately 2 to 3% per year among each of the four racial/ethnic groups. During this same time period, the kidney cancer mortality rate decreased significantly among non-Hispanic whites (-0.5% per year; -10.2% overall) while the other racial/ethnic groups experienced an increase in kidney cancer mortality rates. However, these increases were not statistically significant.

Relative survival estimates the probability that an individual will not die from a given cancer during the specified time following

Figure 1

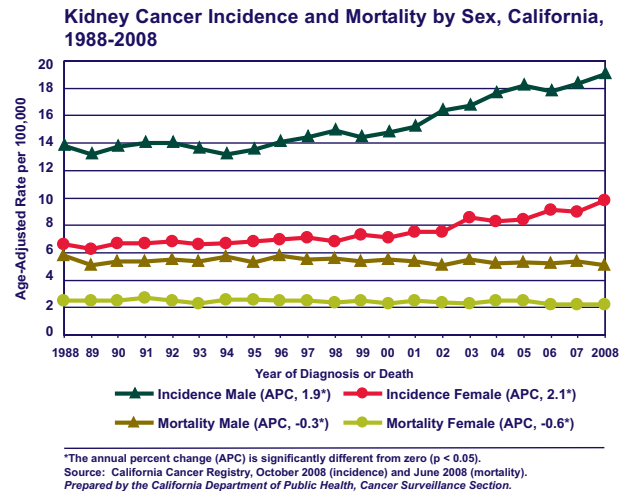


Figure 2

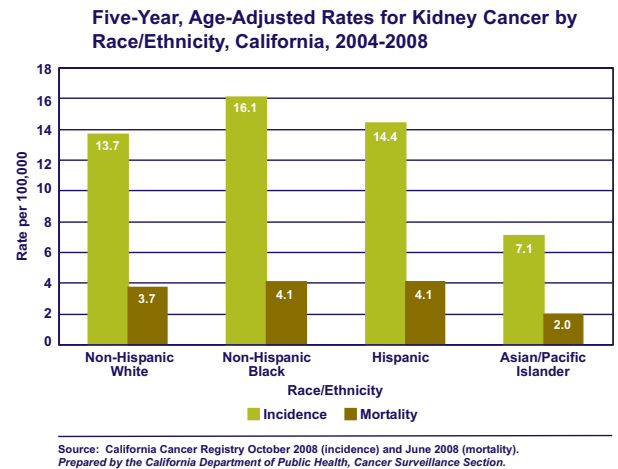


Figure 3

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

Stage at Diagnosis	Stage Distribution	Five-Year Relative Survival
Localized (confined to primary site)	59.0%	90.0%
Regional (spread to regional lymphnodes)	17.9%	63.7%
Distant (cancer has metastasized)	18.1%	11.2%
Unknown Stage	5.0%	27.5%

diagnosis. In California, the five-year relative survival for kidney cancer is 90% when the cancer is diagnosed at the localized stage and 11.2% when the cancer is diagnosed at the distant stage. More than half (59%) of all kidney cancers diagnosed in California are diagnosed at the localized stage (Figure 3).



Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor
State of California
Diana S. Dooley, Secretary
California Health and Human Services Agency
Ron Chapman, MD MPH, Director
California Department of Public Health