

Liver and intrahepatic bile duct cancer epidemiology in the United States, 1973-2013

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TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Cancer Epidemiology

ABSTRACT: Background: Liver cancers represent the 13th most common cancer in the US, accounting for 2.3% of new cancer cases annually. There will be an estimated 40,710 new cases of liver cancer in 2017, resulting in 28,920 deaths. Despite successful application of surveillance programs and considerable therapeutic progress, including curative treatments, prognosis remains poor. **OBJECTIVE:** To identify persons at risk of developing liver cancer earlier, thereby improving outcomes.

Methods: Systematically review the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) database to determine past trends in liver cancer morbidity and mortality in the US from 1973-2013.

Results: Since 1973, incidence rates have increased in older age groups while remaining relatively low for the young. Liver cancer incidence and mortality rates are higher in males than females. Incidences in both sexes have increased since 1973, more quickly in males. Incidence and mortality rates are highest among Asian, Native American, and Pacific Islander ethnic groups, followed by African Americans, and then Whites.

Conclusions: Poor prognosis of untreated liver cancer and ineffective therapeutic interventions for advanced disease indicate the need for advancements in prevention strategies, including vaccination initiatives, prevention and control of HBV and HCV infection, and improved access to treatment and care programs.

OBJECTIVE(S): Describe trends in incidence and mortality of liver and IHBD cancers. Identify subpopulations at higher risk for liver and IHBD cancers. Compare incidence and mortality rates of liver and IHBD cancers geographically, both countrywide and within the state of Oregon.

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