

# BLADDER CANCER IN CALIFORNIA



In 2008, bladder cancer was the eight most commonly diagnosed cancer among Californians, sixth most common among men. Geographically, both age-adjusted incidence and mortality rates are highest in most northern and rural counties.

The age-adjusted incidence and mortality rates of bladder cancer have been on the decline steadily, since 1988 annual percentage change of 0.4-0.8% (Figure 1). Like most other cancers, California men experienced higher incidence and mortality rates of bladder cancer than women. Each year 5,100 Californians are diagnosed with this cancer and 1,300 die from it.

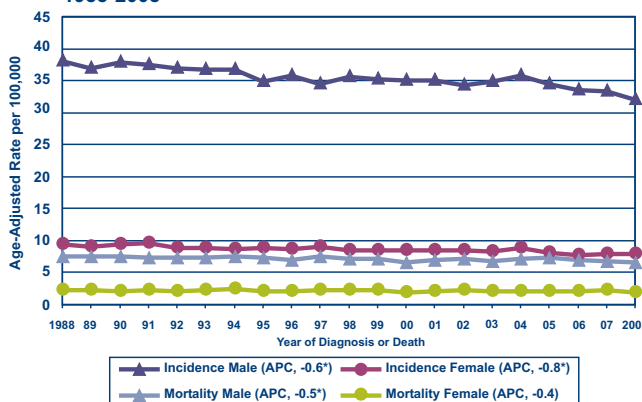
Among the four major racial/ethnic groups in California, non-Hispanic whites have the highest five-year average age-adjusted incidence (23.6 per 100,000) and mortality (4.9 per 100,000) rates of bladder cancer, followed by non-Hispanic blacks (incidence rate = 14.0 per 100,000; mortality rate = 4.4 per 100,000). Asian/Pacific Islanders experienced the

lowest five-year average age-adjusted incidence and mortality rates of bladder cancer (Figure 2).

As for stage of the disease at diagnosis and relative survival, which is an estimation of the probability that a patient will survive bladder cancer during the time following diagnosis, 74.8% of Californians were diagnosed with the disease at the localized stage, and 79.7% of the cases diagnosed at the localized stage were still alive following a five-year period after diagnosis (Figure 3). On the other hand, when Californians were diagnosed with the disease at the distant stage, only 5.8% were still living after five years from the date of diagnosis. The good news is that only 7.0% of all bladder cancer cases diagnosed in California between 1999 - 2008 were detected at the distant stage.

Figure 1

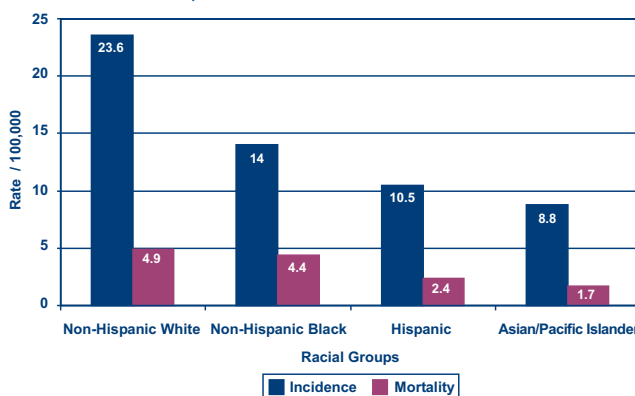
**Bladder Cancer Incidence and Mortality by Sex, California, 1988-2008**



\*The annual percent change (APC) is significantly different from zero ( $p < 0.05$ ).  
Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, Cancer Surveillance Section.

Figure 2

**Five-Year Annual Average Age-Adjusted Incidence and Mortality Rates of Bladder Cancer Among Racial Groups in California, 2004-2008**



Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, Cancer Surveillance Section.

Figure 3

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

Stage at Diagnosis	Stage Distribution	Five-Year Relative Survival
Localized (Confined to Primary Site)	74.8%	79.7%
Regional (Spread to Regional Lymphnodes)	12.9%	36.6%
Distant (Cancer has Metastasized)	7.0%	5.8%
Unknown Stage	5.3%	44.8%



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