



Published in final edited form as:

Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2017 March ; 26(3): 376–382. doi:10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-16-0684.

Cancer Mortality in Hispanic Ethnic Groups

Paulo S. Pinheiro¹, Karen E. Callahan¹, Rebecca L. Siegel², Hongbin Jin¹, Cyllene R. Morris³, Edward J. Trapido⁴, and Scarlett Lin Gomez⁵

¹School of Community Health Sciences, University of Nevada Las Vegas, 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154

²Information, Surveillance and Health Services Research, American Cancer Society, 250 Williams St, NW, Atlanta, GA 30303

³California Cancer Reporting and Epidemiologic Surveillance Program, Institute for Population Health Improvement, University of California Davis Health System, 1631 Alhambra Boulevard, Suite 200, Sacramento CA 95816

⁴Department of Epidemiology, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, School of Public Health, 2020 Gravier St., 3rd Floor, New Orleans, LA 70124

⁵Cancer Prevention Institute of California, 2201 Walnut Avenue, Suite 300, Fremont, CA 94538

Abstract

Background—Cancer is the leading cause of death among Hispanics. The burden of cancer mortality within Hispanic groups has not been well quantified.

Methods—Cancer mortality rates for 2008–2012 in Florida were computed based on race, ethnicity, and birthplace, specifically focusing on major Hispanic groups – Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Central Americans, South Americans, and Dominicans. Age-adjusted mortality rate ratios derived from negative binomial regression were used to compare Hispanics, aggregated and by group, to non-Hispanic whites (NHWs).

Results—205,369 cancer deaths from 2008–2012 were analyzed, of which 22,042 occurred in Hispanics. Overall cancer mortality rates were lower for Hispanics, 159 and 100 per 100,000 in males and females, respectively, compared to 204 and 145 per 100,000 in NHWs, largely driven by relatively low rates of lung and breast cancers among Hispanics. However, Hispanics had a higher risk of death from stomach and liver cancers, both infection-related. Of all Hispanic groups, Mexicans had the lowest mortality, while Cubans had the highest, with significantly higher mortality for colorectal, endometrial and prostate cancers.

Conclusions—Compared to other Hispanic groups, Cubans and Puerto Ricans had significantly higher rates. For these longer-established populations in the US, increases in diet and obesity-

Corresponding author information: Paulo S. Pinheiro, Box 453063, 4505 Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89154, paulo.pinheiro@unlv.edu, Tel: (702) 895-5717, Fax: (702) 895-5573.

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no potential conflicts of interest.

Disclaimer

Any conclusions are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the data source, the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

related cancers are evident. Some groups show excesses that clearly fall out of the common Hispanic patterns, with implications for public health: Cubans for colorectal cancer, Puerto Ricans for liver cancer and Dominicans for prostate cancer.

Impact—Cancer mortality outcomes in Hispanics vary between ethnic groups. Research and public health strategies should consider this heterogeneity.

Keywords

Cancer; Mortality; Hispanics; Latinos; Cubans; Mexicans; Puerto Ricans; Dominicans; Central Americans; South Americans

Introduction

Hispanics are the largest minority population in the United States (US), numbering 55 million in 2014 (1). Cancer is the leading cause of death for Hispanic men and women (2), although the cancer mortality burden born by Hispanics is less than that of non-Hispanic whites (NHWs) and non-Hispanic blacks (NHBs) (3). Hispanics, comprising 17% of the US population in 2014 and projected to increase to 29% by 2060 (4), are heterogeneous, with varying nativity, immigration experiences, language dominance, and socioeconomic circumstances (5), reflected in considerable diversity among Hispanic groups in cancer incidence (6,7) and mortality rates (2,8). Aggregating these distinct groups in cancer research limits the ability to detect and address determinants of disparities that arise from differences in the prevalence of risk and prognostic factors. Irrespective of whether these differences are attributable to biological, cultural, or socioeconomic factors, it is critical to assess and accurately characterize intra-ethnic Hispanic cancer outcomes in order to maximize effectiveness in meeting the needs of this fast-growing minority population.

Mortality is the most useful indicator of progress against cancer because it is dependent upon both incidence and survival. Unbiased cancer incidence and survival studies of distinct Hispanic groups have been impeded by the incompleteness in cancer surveillance systems of birthplace and specific Hispanic ethnicity information (6). However; these are nearly complete on death certificates, presenting an invaluable opportunity to accurately assess cancer outcomes among different groups of Hispanics in the US.

We used cancer mortality data from Florida, home to 9% of the total US Hispanic population (1), for two main reasons. First, Florida, which is 25% Hispanic (9), is the only US state with numerically meaningful representation from all major Hispanic ethnic groups: Cubans (30%), Puerto Ricans (21%), South Americans (17%), Mexicans (16%), Central Americans (11%), Dominicans (4%), and Spaniards (1%) (9). Secondly, unlike in other states with large Hispanic populations, the Hispanic cancer experience in Florida is overwhelmingly foreign-born (6), providing a unique circumstance favorable to avoiding confounding by birthplace (US or foreign-born), a known strong determinant of cancer mortality (10). In this study, we compared cancer mortality across these six major Hispanic groups, the aggregate Hispanic population, NHWs and NHBs.

Materials and Methods

Cancer mortality data for 2008–2012 for Florida residents only were obtained from the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics (11). In addition to all-sites-combined, inclusive of all cancers, the six most common causes of cancer death – lung and bronchus, breast, prostate, colorectal, pancreas, and unknown primary - were analyzed, as well as cancers of special interest and/or rising incidence in Hispanic populations: cervical, liver, stomach, and endometrial. Cancer sites were coded according to the International Classification of Diseases 10th revision (ICD-10). Cancers of unknown primary included causes of death C79 and C80.

Race and ethnicity, including text fields, and birthplace of decedents were examined to obtain accurate Hispanic group information for each decedent, thereby minimizing misclassification. For example, persons born in Brazil, Italy, Portugal and individuals of Asian race born in the Philippines, even if labelled Hispanic, were categorized as non-Hispanic. Decedents from Spanish speaking countries in Central America (CA) and South America (SA) were categorized into these two groups; a few decedents classified as Hispanic but born in Guyana, French Guyana, Suriname and Belize were included in the SA or CA groups accordingly. Those born in Spain or with a descriptive in the ethnicity field as “Spaniard” or “Spanish European” were categorized as Spaniard, and included in the overall Hispanic category, although not reported as a standalone group. Decedents identified as two or more Hispanic groups (0.1%) in the text fields were placed into the specific group described first: e.g., Mexican-Cuban was classified as Mexican; Cuban-Mexican as Cuban. Ninety Hispanic decedents (0.4%) had vague descriptive ethnicity text indicating CA or SA origins, and 186 US-born Hispanics were of unknown Hispanic group; these were proportionally reassigned by imputation models stratified by age, sex, and cancer site for mortality rate calculations, using methodology described elsewhere (6).

Population denominators for the state of Florida were obtained from the 2010 Census (9), coinciding with the mid-year of this study period. Hispanics who were Not Otherwise Specified (NOS) from the census data were bridged to each of the specific populations proportionately by age group and sex (Table 1). Cancer mortality rates for 2008–2012 for Hispanics in aggregate, six Hispanic groups, NHBs, and NHWs were calculated per 100,000 persons, by sex, annualized and age-standardized to the 2000 US Standard Population using eighteen age group bands, all 5-year except the last, which was 85 and older. Corresponding 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for mortality rates were calculated with gamma intervals modification.

To directly compare rates of Hispanics, in aggregate and by group, to the referent NHW group, we computed age-adjusted site-specific mortality rate ratios using negative binomial regression. Models included decedents ages 40 and over.

SAS 9.3 was used for data analysis. This study was approved by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Institutional Review Board.

Results

In 2008–2012, cancer was the cause of death for 205,369 Florida residents, of which 22,042 (11%) were Hispanic. Ninety-two percent of Hispanic decedents were either foreign-born or born on the island of Puerto Rico (Table 1).

Lung, prostate, and colorectal cancer were the leading causes of cancer mortality among Hispanic males, with the exception of Dominicans and Mexicans for whom liver was third, and Dominicans for whom prostate was first. Among women, lung and breast cancers were either the first or second leading cause of death in all Hispanic groups, with colorectal cancer always third (Table 2).

Compared to NHWs in Florida, Hispanics had lower all-sites-combined cancer mortality rates. In aggregate, Hispanics had significantly higher mortality rates for stomach and prostate cancers than NHWs, but significantly lower rates for lung, pancreas and breast cancers (Table 2). However, there was considerable heterogeneity in rates by Hispanic ethnicity. Mexicans had the lowest cancer mortality rates per 100,000 of all analyzed groups for all-sites-combined, 117 and 82 among males and females, respectively, compared to 236 and 148 among NHBs, who had the highest rates. Among Hispanics, the highest rates per 100,000 were in Cuban males and females, 174 and 104, respectively, followed closely by Puerto Ricans, 158 and 103 for males and females (Table 2).

Compared to NHWs, the overall risk of cancer death in Hispanics was approximately 30% lower for both sexes ($p < 0.05$). Of all cancers analyzed, lung and breast cancers had the greatest mortality risk differentials by race/ethnicity. Compared to NHWs, Hispanic females had a marked 67% lower risk of lung cancer death, while Hispanic males had a 42% lower risk (Table 3). For breast cancer, Hispanic women had a 25% lower mortality compared to NHWs. On the other hand, Hispanics females in Florida had an 86% higher mortality risk than NHWs, while Hispanic men had 85% and 12% higher risk for stomach and prostate cancer mortality, respectively.

Discussion

This is the first comprehensive analysis of cancer mortality in all major Hispanic ethnic groups in the US. Our results reveal both overarching Hispanic patterns and significant differences between Hispanic groups: for most cancers, Cubans have the highest mortality rates, followed closely by Puerto Ricans. The other analyzed groups, Central Americans, Dominicans, South Americans, and especially Mexicans, have overall lower cancer mortality.

Aggregated, Hispanics have lower all-sites-combined mortality compared to NHWs and NHBs in Florida, driven largely by their lower rates of two major causes of cancer death: lung and breast cancer. Past smoking trends for all Hispanics (12) and higher fertility in Hispanic women (13) likely account for the diminished risk for these cancers. Lower smoking prevalence among Hispanics may also partially explain relatively low rates in other tobacco-related cancers (2) such as pancreas and bladder (data not shown) compared to

NHW. However, Hispanics have higher mortality than NHWs for some cancers, including stomach, prostate, and liver for females.

Cubans and Puerto Ricans

Among all Hispanic populations, Cubans have the highest overall cancer mortality rates for both sexes. Their site-specific mortality pattern is most similar to NHWs: relatively lower liver and stomach cancer risk than other Hispanic groups, but the highest lung cancer mortality rates among Hispanics. Compared to other Hispanic groups, Cubans are historically the heaviest daily smokers (14) and have higher smoking prevalence (15), likely explaining their high lung and overall cancer mortality. Mortality rates among Cubans significantly exceed those of NHWs for colorectal, endometrial and prostate cancers.

Puerto Ricans also have high rates of colorectal and endometrial cancers. Both of these cancers are strongly linked to obesity and diabetes (16) and are often considered “western” cancers, with risk commonly increasing among first generation immigrants (6). National surveys show that Mexicans have the highest rates of these risk factors, not Cubans or Puerto Ricans (17). Nonetheless, Cubans and Puerto Ricans have longer average time spent in the US, (continental US for Puerto Ricans), than other Hispanic immigrants (Table 1); hence there is a possibility of more persistent acculturation and sustained prevalence of risk factors among these Hispanic groups. Heavy smoking and drinking, more common in Puerto Ricans and Cubans (17, 18), are also risk factors for colorectal cancer (16). Cubans have the lowest colorectal cancer screening rates among all Hispanics (2) and the highest mortality rates, so potential reductions in colorectal cancer mortality could be achieved by increased colorectal cancer screening. Consistent with a more “Western” pattern of cancer occurrence, Cubans and Puerto Ricans had the highest mortality rates of all Hispanic groups for breast cancer, typical of populations with lower parity (2), as well as high prostate cancer mortality. Prostate cancer risk increases have been observed in populations transitioning to a high-calorie, fatty diet (19, 20).

Puerto Ricans are second to Cubans in overall cancer mortality rates. Yet their specific patterns are distinct from Cuban outcomes, with high mortality for the infection-related cancers, (i.e., stomach, liver and cervix). Puerto Rican men in Florida have the highest liver cancer mortality of any Hispanic group, 63% higher than NHWs. Additionally, Puerto Rican women not only have the highest cervical cancer mortality rate among Hispanic women, they also are the only group for whom mortality significantly exceeds that of NHW women, despite evidence of high uptake of cervical cancer screening (2), and higher rates of insurance coverage due to US citizenship status (5). Our findings are consistent with a previous study that showed higher infection-related mortality for island Puerto Ricans than NHWs (21).

Mexicans, Central Americans, South Americans, Dominicans

The remaining four Hispanic groups have lower overall cancer mortality rates as well as lower rates for the two most common causes of cancer deaths, lung and breast, likely partially explained by lower rates of smoking (14) and higher parity (5) than their Cuban and Puerto Rican counterparts. Our findings are similar for colorectal cancer: lower rates

compared to Cubans and Puerto Ricans. These lower breast and colorectal cancer mortality rates in the more recent immigrant populations, despite less health insurance coverage (5) and lower use of screening tests (2), likely indicates lower disease incidence, as confirmed in other studies (6). Lower risk for CA, SA, and Dominican populations may be a result of lower prevalence of many cancer risk factors concomitant with shorter periods of time living in the US.

Of all Hispanic groups in Florida, Mexicans of both sexes consistently have the lowest cancer mortality rates, except for stomach and liver. Stomach cancer mortality rates, higher than NHWs for all Hispanics, are especially high among both CAs and SAs. This mirrors the high burden of stomach cancer, associated with *Helicobacter pylori* infection, in Central and South America (22). Given that the over 99% of CA and SA populations are foreign-born (Table 1), it is natural that the country of origin risk persists after emigration to Florida. Liver cancer mortality is high among Mexican men and particularly high for CA women, although reasons for this are unclear.

Prostate cancer mortality among Dominicans is nearly double that of NHWs. Notably, of all Hispanic groups, Dominicans had the highest proportion of black race in our dataset. Men of African ancestry are known to have high prostate cancer incidence and mortality rates (16, 23), particularly for aggressive forms that present in late stages (24). Dominicans, with the highest prostate cancer mortality among Hispanic groups in Florida, also have the lowest documented rates of prostate cancer screening (25). As such, the debate surrounding targeted PSA screening recommendations for blacks (26), in light of differences in incidence and mortality, could possibly be expanded to include Dominican populations.

Liver cancer is a paramount problem for the overall US population due to rapidly increasing incidence and mortality rates, in contrast to most other cancers (3, 16). Complicating prevention and treatment efforts is the fact that there are multiple causes of liver cancer, including viral infection, obesity/diabetes, and alcoholism, and prevalence of these causes is not evenly distributed among NHWs, NHBs, and Hispanic groups (27). Hispanic group differences in infection with the Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and the Hepatitis C virus (HCV) likely play an important role in the patterns observed in liver cancer mortality in our study. Among the foreign-born, HBV infection is more prevalent, while HCV is less prevalent (2). However, for US-born populations, including Puerto Ricans irrespective of birthplace, chronic HCV infection likely plays a larger role (28). Studies show substantially higher HCV prevalence in Puerto Ricans than other Hispanics (28,29), and our study revealed that Puerto Ricans had a 62% higher risk of liver cancer death than NHWs in both sexes, higher than all other Hispanic groups for males. In light of this, Puerto Ricans might be considered a priority population for targeted HCV testing, since effective HCV antiviral treatment that reduces liver cancer risk is now available (3).

Strengths and Limitations

Florida is the only US state with significant representation from each of the major Hispanic groups. Thus, this study is able to circumvent biases from ethno-regional differences arising from disparate baseline risks. While a few studies reported cancer mortality rates for Mexicans, Cubans, and Puerto Ricans (2, 8), none have included Dominicans, CAs and SAs.

Accurate direct comparison between all major Hispanic groups as well as NHWs and NHBs was possible for the first time. Moreover, our study benefits from very high completeness (>99%) of birthplace information for all Florida deaths, which, combined with ethnicity and text descriptives, allowed for unprecedented reliable classification of Hispanic groups, not possible with cancer incidence data.

Our study has the usual limitations of descriptive epidemiology. Risk factor data specific to Hispanic groups in Florida are lacking. Hispanic populations in Florida may not be entirely representative of the same Hispanic groups in the US. Theoretically, our mortality numbers could be affected by out-migration of Mexicans, Dominicans, CAs, and SAs who return to their home countries of origin to die. However, the magnitude of this phenomenon, known as the Salmon Bias, was found to be small for Hispanics (30). Central American and South American rates are themselves aggregates of diverse populations, although in Florida predominantly Nicaraguan and Colombian, respectively (5). Lastly, individual-level data for length of stay in the US among cancer decedents was not available.

Mortality is a function of cancer incidence and survival. While our results are consistent with previous reports on cancer incidence rates for Hispanic groups (6, 7), it is possible that limited health care access and/or low healthcare quality for Hispanics result in poor cancer survival, thus impacting the mortality burden. However, analyzing any differential survival by Hispanic group is currently problematic. The accuracy of survival data among the foreign-born in the US, especially for Hispanics, is prone to biases arising from passive follow-up methods in registries (31, 32) and missing information on specific Hispanic group (33). The SEER cancer surveillance program greatly reduces the problem of passive follow-up by systematically collecting dates of last alive contact for all cancer cases, but its coverage does not include a meaningful representation of Caribbean and SA populations, together comprising 23% of the Hispanic population (9). Nonetheless, prior studies using SEER registries, albeit overwhelmingly represented by Mexican Hispanics, have not shown large differences in survival between Hispanics and NHWs (34). Thus, differences in incidence, rather than survival, likely drive most of the mortality differences seen in our study. Even so, future accurate survival studies in Florida could explain some of our unexpected findings, such as the high ovarian and prostate cancer mortality rates among CAs, given that they are more recent immigrant arrivals (35) from countries at low-risk for these cancers (19).

In conclusion, considerable heterogeneity in cancer mortality is observed between Hispanic groups. Two distinct group patterns emerge among Hispanics: low cancer mortality for Mexicans, CAs, SAs and Dominicans, and intermediate mortality for Cubans and Puerto Ricans, higher than the aggregate Hispanic population although still mostly lower than NHWs. The significantly higher mortality rates for colorectal, endometrial and prostate cancers among the longer-established Cuban immigrant population in comparison to NHWs suggest that “Western” risk factors such as obesity may be an important focus for intervention, especially in the context of acculturation. Our study also shows that for certain populations, public health interventions may be warranted, including those that increase colorectal screening among Cubans, HCV testing and treatment for Puerto Ricans, and awareness of the likely elevated prostate cancer risk for Dominicans.

Hispanics, the largest racial/ethnic minority group in the US, have diverse cultural, socioeconomic, racial, and geographic backgrounds. Aggregated, this population of 55 million is relatively “low risk” for most cancers, although certain groups, especially Puerto Ricans and Cubans, bear a disproportionate mortality burden. It is important to monitor these trends, identifying protective factors that can be preserved or even replicated in other populations, as well as opportunities to resist the acquisition of major risk factors for cancer. Future studies should attempt to elucidate selective acculturation mechanisms among Hispanic immigrants that would potentially counteract unfavorable trends towards worsening cancer outcomes.

Acknowledgments

Financial support: P.S. Pinheiro is partially funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (8 P20 GM103440-11).

References

1. Stepler R, Brown A. Statistical portrait of Hispanics in the United States. Pew Hispanic Center. 2016
2. Siegel RL, Fedewa SA, Miller KD, Goding-Sauer A, Pinheiro PS, Martinez-Tyson D, et al. Cancer statistics for Hispanics/Latinos, 2015. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2015; 65:457–80. [PubMed: 26375877]
3. Ryerson AB, Ehemann CR, Altekruse SF, Ward JW, Jemal A, Sherman RL, et al. Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer, 1975–2012, featuring the increasing incidence of liver cancer. *Cancer.* 2016; 122:1312–37. [PubMed: 26959385]
4. Colby, SL., Ortman, JM. Projections of the Size and Composition of the US Population: 2014 to 2060. 2015. Available at: <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2015/demo/p25-1143.pdf>
5. Lopez, G., Patten, E. The impact of slowing immigration: Foreign-born share falls among 14 largest US Hispanic origin groups. Washington DC: Pew Research Center; 2015.
6. Pinheiro PS, Sherman RL, Trapido EJ, Fleming LE, Huang Y, Gomez-Marin O, et al. Cancer incidence in first generation U.S. Hispanics: Cubans, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and new Latinos. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2009; 18:2162–9. [PubMed: 19661072]
7. Howe HL, Lake A, Schymura MJ, Edwards BK. Indirect method to estimate specific Hispanic group cancer rates. *Cancer Causes & Control.* 2009; 20:1215–26. [PubMed: 19609690]
8. Martinez-Tyson D, Pathak EB, Soler-Vila H, Flores AM. Looking under the Hispanic umbrella: cancer mortality among Cubans, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans and other Hispanics in Florida. *J Immigr Minor Health.* 2009; 11:249–57. [PubMed: 18506623]
9. U.S. Census Bureau. Census 2010: Summary File 1, Detailed Tables, Tables QT-PCT-10; Summary File 2, Detailed Tables, PCT-3. Accessed May, 2016.
10. Pinheiro PS, Callahan KE, Jin H, Morris C. Rethinking the Hispanic Advantage in Cancer Outcomes: Influence of Birthplace. *J Clin Oncol.* 2016; 34(suppl):15s. abstr 1575.
11. Bureau of Vital Statistics, Florida Department of Health, Jacksonville, Florida. Mortality data 2008–2012. received June 2015.
12. Ng M, Freeman MK, Fleming TD, Robinson M, Dwyer-Lindgren L, Thomson B, et al. Smoking prevalence and cigarette consumption in 187 countries, 1980–2012. *JAMA.* 2014; 311:183–92. [PubMed: 24399557]
13. Hamilton BE, Martin JA, Osterman MJ, Curtin SC, Matthews TJ. Births: Final Data for 2014. *Natl Vital Stat Rep.* 2015; 64:1–64.
14. Kaplan RC, Bangdiwala SI, Barnhart JM, Castañeda SF, Gellman MD, Lee DJ, et al. Smoking among U.S. Hispanic/Latino adults: the Hispanic community health study/study of Latinos. *Am J Prev Med.* 2014; 46:496–506. [PubMed: 24745640]

15. Blanco L, Garcia R, Pérez-Stable EJ, White MM, Messer K, Pierce JP, et al. National trends in smoking behaviors among Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban men and women in the United States. *Am J Public Health*. 2014; 104:896–903. [PubMed: 24625159]
16. American Cancer Society. *Cancer Facts & Figures 2016*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2016.
17. Rodriguez CJ, Allison M, Daviglius ML, Isasi CR, Keller C, Leira EC, et al. Status of cardiovascular disease and stroke in Hispanics/Latinos in the United States: a science advisory from the American Heart Association. *Circulation*. 2014; 130:593–625. [PubMed: 25098323]
18. Caetano R, Ramisetty-Mikler S, Rodriguez LA. The Hispanic Americans Baseline Alcohol Survey (HABLAS): rates and predictors of alcohol abuse and dependence across Hispanic national groups. *J Stud Alcohol Drugs*. 2008; 69:441–8. [PubMed: 18432387]
19. Jemal A, Bray F, Center MM, Ferlay J, Ward E, Forman D. Global cancer statistics. *CA Cancer J Clin*. 2011; 61:69–90. [PubMed: 21296855]
20. Rodriguez C, McCullough ML, Mondul AM, Jacobs EJ, Chao A, Patel AV, et al. Meat consumption among Black and White men and risk of prostate cancer in the Cancer Prevention Study II Nutrition Cohort. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2006; 15:211–216. [PubMed: 16492907]
21. Ortiz AP, Soto-Salgado M, Calo WA, Tortolero-Luna G, Pérez CM, Romero CJ, et al. Incidence and mortality rates of selected infection-related cancers in Puerto Rico and in the United States. *Infectious agents and cancer*. 2010; 5:10. [PubMed: 20470399]
22. Ferlay J, Shin HR, Bray F, Forman D, Mathers C, Parkin DM. Estimates of worldwide burden of cancer: GLOBOCAN 2008. *Int J Cancer*. 2010; 127:2893–917. [PubMed: 21351269]
23. Pinheiro PS, Callahan KE, Ragin C, Hage RW, Hylton T, Kobetz EN. Black heterogeneity in cancer mortality: US-Blacks, Haitians, and Jamaicans. *Cancer Control*. In Press.
24. Rebbeck TR, Devesa SS, Chang BL, Bunker CH, Cheng I, Cooney K, et al. Global patterns of prostate cancer incidence, aggressiveness, and mortality in men of African descent. *Prostate Cancer*. 2013; 2013:560857. [PubMed: 23476788]
25. Gorin SS, Heck JE. Cancer screening among Latino subgroups in the United States. *Prev Med*. 2005; 40:515–26. [PubMed: 15749133]
26. Shenoy D, Packianathan S, Chen AM, Vijayakumar S. Do African-American men need separate prostate cancer screening guidelines? *BMC Urol*. 2016; 16:19. [PubMed: 27165293]
27. Setiawan VW, Hernandez BY, Lu SC, Stram DO, Wilkens LR, Le Marchand L, et al. Diabetes and racial/ethnic differences in hepatocellular carcinoma risk: the multiethnic cohort. *J Natl Cancer Inst*. 2014; 106
28. Kuniholm MH, Jung M, Everhart JE, Cotler S, Heiss G, McQuillan G, et al. Prevalence of hepatitis C virus infection in US Hispanic/Latino adults: results from the NHANES 2007–2010 and HCHS/SOL studies. *J Infect Dis*. 2014; 209:1585–90. [PubMed: 24423693]
29. Pérez CM, Suárez E, Torres EA, Román K, Colón V. Seroprevalence of hepatitis C virus and associated risk behaviours: a population-based study in San Juan, Puerto Rico. *Int J Epidemiol*. 2005; 34:593–9. [PubMed: 15802378]
30. Turra CM, Elo IT. The Impact of Salmon Bias on the Hispanic Mortality Advantage: New Evidence from Social Security Data. *Popul Res Policy Rev*. 2008; 27:515–530. [PubMed: 19122882]
31. Pinheiro PS, Williams M, Miller EA, Easterday S, Moonie S, Trapido EJ. Cancer survival among Latinos and the Hispanic Paradox. *Cancer Causes Control*. 2011; 22:553–61. [PubMed: 21279543]
32. Pinheiro PS, Morris CR, Liu L, Bungum TJ, Altekruze SF. The impact of follow-up type and missed deaths on population-based cancer survival studies for Hispanics and Asians. *J Natl Cancer Inst Monographs*. 2014; 2014:210–7. [PubMed: 25417234]
33. Pinheiro PS. The influence of Hispanic ethnicity on nonsmall cell lung cancer histology and patient survival. *Cancer*. 2013; 119:1285–6. [PubMed: 23027518]
34. Mariotto AB, Noone AM, Howlander N, Cho H, Keel GE, Garshell J, et al. Cancer survival: an overview of measures, uses, and interpretation. *J Natl Cancer Inst Monographs*. 2014; 2014:145–86. [PubMed: 25417231]
35. American Community Survey 2012 5-Year Estimates. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota; Accessed May 2016

Table 1

Study Population Characteristics. Florida.

	Population Data		Cancer Data (2008–2012)		
	Total Population ¹¹	Median Years of Stay in the US for Foreign-Born >50 years old ³⁵	Cancer Deaths	Cancer/All Deaths	Foreign-born
Non-Hispanic white	10,884,722	–	160,604	24%	5%
Non-Hispanic black	2,997,371	–	20,207	22%	19%
Hispanic *	4,223,806	30	22,042	22%	92%
Mexican	666,536	26	993	18%	56%
Puerto Rican	892,771	41	4,016	21%	84% [‡]
Cuban	1,270,300	34	11,862	22%	97%
Central American	454,620	25	1,255	25%	99%
South American	707,062	23	2,875	33%	99%
Dominican	181,381	24	636	25%	98%

* Includes 51,136 of origin or birthplace in Spain

[‡] Born on the island of Puerto Rico; here considered foreign-born despite US citizenship status

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Table 2

Annual Age-Adjusted Mortality Rates for Selected Cancers per 100,000, Florida, 2008–2012*

	All Populations			Non-Hispanic white			Non-Hispanic black			Hispanic†			Mexican			Puerto Rican			Cuban			Central American			South American			Dominican			
	N	Rate	95% CI	N	Rate	95% CI	N	Rate	95% CI	N	Rate	95% CI	N	Rate	95% CI	N	Rate	95% CI	N	Rate	95% CI	N	Rate	95% CI	N	Rate	95% CI	N	Rate	95% CI	
MALE																															
Lung and Bronchus	33218	58.3	(57.7–59.0)	27126	62.5	(61.7–63.2)	2871	61.6	(59.2–64.1)	2926	39.1	(37.7–40.5)	105	26.2	(20.8–32.3)	454	32.6	(29.5–35.8)	1907	49.4	(47.2–51.7)	77	23.9	(18.1–30.7)	253	26.1	(22.7–29.8)	56	26.3	(19.3–34.7)	
Prostate	10346	18.8	(18.5–19.2)	7376	16.8	(16.4–17.2)	1043	46.7	(44.3–49.1)	1227	18.8	(17.7–19.9)	38	12.0	(8.2–16.7)	193	17.4	(15.0–20.1)	731	19.3	(17.8–20.7)	50	19.2	(13.7–25.9)	148	20.4	(17.0–24.3)	53	31.3	(23.1–41.1)	
Colorectum	9614	17.2	(16.9–17.6)	7100	16.8	(16.4–17.2)	1110	24.1	(22.5–25.6)	1265	17.0	(16.1–18.0)	53	10.2	(7.1–13.9)	241	17.9	(15.6–20.4)	722	18.9	(17.5–20.3)	59	13.4	(9.5–18.1)	134	12.3	(10.1–14.9)	25	9.6	(6.0–14.3)	
Pancreas	6880	12.1	(11.9–12.4)	5420	12.5	(12.2–12.9)	606	13.2	(12.1–14.3)	783	10.4	(9.7–11.1)	34	7.1	(4.6–10.3)	124	9.0	(7.4–10.8)	441	11.5	(10.4–12.6)	38	9.7	(6.2–14.1)	115	10.6	(8.6–12.9)	18	6.2	(3.6–10.0)	
Liver‡‡	4892	8.6	(8.3–8.8)	3494	8.3	(8.0–8.6)	561	10.2	(9.3–11.1)	717	9.1	(8.5–9.9)	58	11.3	(8.1–15.2)	213	13.7	(11.8–15.7)	298	7.8	(6.9–8.7)	37	8.3	(5.4–12.2)	77	7.2	(5.5–9.2)	22	9.7	(5.8–15.0)	
Unknown Primary	6520	11.6	(11.3–11.9)	5156	12.2	(11.9–12.5)	629	12.9	(11.9–14.1)	667	8.9	(8.3–9.7)	30	5.1	(3.1–7.7)	127	9.2	(7.6–11.0)	375	9.9	(7.6–11.0)	36	9.4	(6.1–13.7)	73	7.8	(6.0–10.1)	13	7.7	(3.8–13.2)	
Stomach	2166	3.9	(3.8–4.1)	1281	3.1	(2.9–3.2)	387	8.6	(7.7–9.6)	426	5.6	(5.1–6.2)	24	5.8	(3.4–9.1)	72	5.4	(4.2–6.9)	162	4.3	(3.7–5.0)	49	13.0	(8.8–18.3)	104	10.0	(8.0–12.4)	<10	4.2	(1.8–8.0)	
All-sites-combined	110889	19.77	(19.63–19.89)	87256	20.84	(20.31–20.88)	10638	23.61	(23.12–241.0)	11771	15.85	(15.56–161.5)	579	11.72	(10.59–129.2)	2153	15.75	(15.05–164.6)	6649	174.1	(169.9–178.3)	520	132.8	(119.0–147.6)	1354	138.8	(130.6–147.3)	284	136.7	(119.8–155.0)	
FEMALE																															
Breast	13890	21.0	(20.6–21.3)	10127	21.2	(20.7–21.6)	1917	28.6	(27.3–29.9)	1688	15.9	(15.1–16.7)	70	11.4	(8.5–14.9)	329	17.2	(15.3–19.2)	817	17.2	(16.0–18.4)	122	14.0	(11.4–16.9)	223	12.3	(10.6–14.1)	72	16.5	(12.8–20.9)	
Lung and Bronchus	26016	37.3	(36.8–37.8)	22558	44.1	(43.5–44.7)	1637	25.6	(24.4–26.9)	1539	15.0	(14.3–15.8)	44	11.8	(8.4–15.9)	288	16.0	(14.2–18.0)	827	16.3	(15.2–17.5)	87	13.3	(10.5–16.6)	213	13.8	(11.9–15.8)	55	14.8	(11.1–19.3)	
Colorectum	8493	12.0	(11.8–12.3)	6173	11.7	(11.4–12.0)	1043	16.3	(15.3–17.3)	1169	11.4	(10.7–12.0)	32	7.0	(4.5–10.1)	190	10.8	(9.3–12.5)	678	12.9	(11.9–14.0)	73	9.4	(7.2–12.0)	131	8.3	(6.9–10.0)	38	10.2	(7.2–14.1)	
Pancreas	6413	9.0	(8.7–9.2)	4898	9.1	(8.9–9.4)	661	10.5	(9.7–11.4)	762	7.4	(6.9–8.0)	31	6.8	(4.4–9.9)	112	6.5	(5.3–7.8)	420	7.9	(7.1–8.7)	41	6.5	(4.6–8.9)	118	7.7	(6.3–9.3)	29	8.1	(5.4–11.7)	
Ovary	4796	7.0	(6.8–7.2)	3741	7.5	(7.3–7.8)	375	5.7	(5.1–6.3)	605	5.8	(5.4–6.3)	24	3.9	(2.4–6.1)	94	5.0	(4.1–6.2)	292	6.2	(5.5–7.0)	58	7.4	(5.4–9.7)	112	6.5	(5.3–7.9)	16	3.8	(2.1–6.2)	
Unknown Primary	5171	7.3	(7.1–7.5)	4001	7.6	(7.3–7.8)	545	8.6	(7.9–9.4)	562	5.5	(5.0–5.9)	22	4.3	(2.5–6.8)	91	5.2	(4.1–6.3)	290	5.5	(4.9–6.2)	48	7.0	(5.0–9.4)	81	5.4	(4.2–6.8)	16	4.4	(2.5–7.2)	
Liver‡‡	2221	3.2	(3.0–3.3)	1496	2.9	(2.8–3.1)	238	3.7	(3.2–4.2)	409	4.0	(3.6–4.4)	23	4.9	(3.0–7.4)	86	4.7	(3.8–5.9)	181	3.5	(3.0–4.0)	40	6.3	(4.4–8.7)	61	4.4	(3.3–5.7)	10	3.0	(1.4–5.4)	
Endometrium	2744	4.0	(3.8–4.1)	1775	3.6	(3.4–3.7)	524	8.1	(7.4–8.9)	401	3.9	(3.3–4.3)	10	2.1	(0.9–3.9)	76	4.1	(3.2–5.2)	210	4.3	(3.7–5.0)	27	3.5	(2.2–5.1)	58	3.5	(2.6–4.5)	14	4.0	(2.1–6.7)	
Stomach	1508	2.2	(2.1–2.3)	865	1.7	(1.6–1.8)	267	4.3	(3.8–4.8)	325	3.2	(2.8–3.5)	17	3.2	(1.7–5.4)	62	3.4	(2.6–4.4)	118	2.3	(1.9–2.8)	34	4.2	(2.8–6.0)	83	5.5	(4.3–6.8)	<10	1.3	(0.4–3.0)	
Cervix	1545	2.7	(2.6–2.9)	923	2.6	(2.4–2.8)	340	4.9	(4.4–5.5)	242	2.3	(2.0–2.6)	14	1.6	(0.9–2.9)	67	3.4	(2.6–4.3)	84	2.1	(1.7–2.6)	29	3.2	(2.0–4.7)	38	2.1	(1.4–2.9)	<10	2.0	(0.9–3.8)	
All-sites-combined	94480	13.69	(13.60–13.78)	73348	144.8	(143.7–145.9)	9569	147.8	(144.8–150.8)	10271	99.6	(97.6–101.5)	414	82.0	(73.2–91.4)	1863	102.6	(97.9–107.4)	5213	104.1	(101.2–107.1)	735	99.2	(91.6–107.3)	1521	95.2	(90.2–100.4)	352	91.1	(81.6–101.5)	

* 2000 US Standard Population;

† Includes of origin or birthplace in Spain;

‡‡ Includes intrahepatic bile duct

Note: All-sites-combined includes all malignant neoplasms, not just those specified above.

Table 3

Mortality Rate Ratios* for Selected Cancers, Florida, 2008–2012.

	NHW		All Hispanic		Mexican		Puerto Rican		Cuban		Central American		South American		Dominican		
	Referent	RR	95% CI	RR	95% CI	RR	95% CI	RR	95% CI	RR	95% CI	RR	95% CI	RR	95% CI	RR	95% CI
Male																	
Lung and Bronchus	1.00	0.58	(0.53–0.63)	0.35	(0.29–0.43)	0.52	(0.47–0.57)	0.80	(0.76–0.83)	0.28	(0.22–0.35)	0.37	(0.32–0.41)	0.38	(0.29–0.49)		
Prostate	1.00	1.12	(1.05–1.19)	0.75	(0.55–1.04)	1.04	(0.90–1.19)	1.15	(1.07–1.25)	1.10	(0.83–1.46)	1.16	(0.98–1.36)	1.87	(1.43–2.46)		
Colon and Rectum	1.00	0.96	(0.87–1.07)	0.61	(0.46–0.81)	1.04	(0.90–1.20)	1.12	(1.00–1.26)	0.71	(0.54–0.94)	0.74	(0.61–0.88)	0.65	(0.43–0.96)		
Pancreas	1.00	0.82	(0.76–0.88)	0.59	(0.42–0.83)	0.69	(0.57–0.82)	0.92	(0.84–1.02)	0.70	(0.51–0.97)	0.81	(0.67–0.98)	0.62	(0.39–0.98)		
Liver [‡]	1.00	1.08	(0.93–1.25)	1.26	(0.92–1.74)	1.63	(1.30–2.04)	0.91	(0.74–1.13)	0.86	(0.59–1.26)	0.77	(0.58–1.03)	1.01	(0.64–1.59)		
Stomach	1.00	1.84	(1.65–2.06)	1.53	(0.99–2.35)	1.78	(1.40–2.27)	1.42	(1.21–1.68)	3.22	(2.35–4.40)	3.18	(2.59–3.90)	1.33	(0.69–2.56)		
All-sites-combined	1.00	0.70	(0.65–0.76)	0.54	(0.48–0.62)	0.71	(0.64–0.80)	0.78	(0.71–0.86)	0.54	(0.47–0.62)	0.57	(0.51–0.64)	0.57	(0.49–0.67)		
Female																	
Breast	1.00	0.75	(0.71–0.79)	0.52	(0.40–0.68)	0.79	(0.71–0.89)	0.83	(0.77–0.89)	0.66	(0.55–0.80)	0.59	(0.52–0.68)	0.76	(0.60–0.97)		
Lung and Bronchus	1.00	0.33	(0.30–0.36)	0.20	(0.15–0.28)	0.35	(0.31–0.40)	0.37	(0.34–0.40)	0.27	(0.22–0.33)	0.29	(0.25–0.33)	0.32	(0.24–0.42)		
Colon and Rectum	1.00	0.98	(0.92–1.04)	0.55	(0.38–0.80)	0.91	(0.79–1.06)	1.13	(1.04–1.23)	0.86	(0.68–1.09)	0.69	(0.57–0.82)	0.85	(0.62–1.18)		
Pancreas	1.00	0.81	(0.75–0.88)	0.74	(0.51–1.07)	0.70	(0.58–0.84)	0.88	(0.79–0.97)	0.64	(0.47–0.88)	0.83	(0.69–1.00)	0.85	(0.59–1.22)		
Ovary	1.00	0.77	(0.70–0.84)	0.55	(0.35–0.86)	0.66	(0.53–0.81)	0.80	(0.71–0.90)	0.95	(0.73–1.24)	0.84	(0.69–1.02)	0.50	(0.30–0.83)		
Liver [‡]	1.00	1.39	(1.24–1.55)	1.75	(1.14–2.69)	1.62	(1.28–2.05)	1.20	(1.00–1.44)	1.94	(1.40–2.69)	1.26	(0.96–1.66)	0.90	(0.48–1.68)		
Endometrium	1.00	1.11	(0.99–1.23)	0.54	(0.28–1.05)	1.16	(0.92–1.46)	1.22	(1.06–1.41)	0.99	(0.67–1.45)	0.95	(0.73–1.25)	1.01	(0.60–1.72)		
Stomach	1.00	1.86	(1.63–2.12)	1.97	(1.16–3.35)	2.16	(1.66–2.80)	1.36	(1.12–1.66)	2.52	(1.72–3.68)	3.19	(2.53–4.03)	0.67	(0.25–1.78)		
Cervix	1.00	0.97	(0.84–1.13)	0.80	(0.45–1.42)	1.34	(1.02–1.75)	0.89	(0.70–1.13)	1.24	(0.84–1.84)	0.81	(0.57–1.13)	0.82	(0.41–1.64)		
All-sites-combined	1.00	0.67	(0.62–0.71)	0.55	(0.49–0.62)	0.68	(0.63–0.72)	0.70	(0.66–0.74)	0.65	(0.60–0.71)	0.62	(0.58–0.67)	0.60	(0.53–0.67)		

* Adjusted for age group obtained by Negative Binomial Regression;

[‡] Includes intrahepatic bile duct

Note: All-sites-combined includes all malignant neoplasms, not just those specified above.